

Inside

Comics .....	10
Editorial/Opinion .....	4
Features .....	6
Sports .....	12

Connect

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

FEATURESPage 6



Minar opens in Downtown Troy, well received by reviewers

SPORTSPage 12



Engineers win Dutchmen Shoes trophy game

EDITORIALPage 4

Brookelyn Parslow	Director of the Union's importance
Jonathan Caicedo	Gaining control of emotional state
Staff Editorial	Urging Senate to affirm student rights

ADMINISTRATION

DOSO begins judicial inquiries

Sidney Kochman  
Brookelyn Parslow  
Senior Reporters

THE DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE HAS BEGUN pursuing judicial inquiries involving students who participated in the Friday, October 13 demonstration outside of Rensselaer’s capital campaign launch.

In these cases, the violations include “trespassing,” “violation of a published Rensselaer/student government policy or regulation,” and “failure to comply.” The violations have only been “reported,” as this is only the beginning of the judicial inquiries, and student responsibility for the violations has not been determined.

The Polytechnic was provided with an incident summary for graduate student Michael Gardner’s case, which was completed on November 1 by Director of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Judicial Affairs Michael Arno. The summary states that “when the demonstrators entered a restricted area of campus, professional staff was instructed to identify demonstration participants.” It lists news coverage of the protest that identifies Gardner as “a protest leader,” and says that Gardner and Bryan Johns ’19 “appear to be involved in the leadership of the protest.”

The summary also says that “representatives from the Dean of Students Office and Public Safety were permitted to view video footage from the demonstration” that was provided by the Department of Public Safety and the Troy Police Department. “There was not information provided that indicates Johns and Gardner displayed actions to prevent the demonstrators from entering the restricted



Nicholas Luczak/The Polytechnic

IN THIS FILE PHOTO, A TROY POLICE OFFICER RECORDS the protest next to the Voorhees Computing Center. The footage was later used by RPI to identify students who were present.

area of campus or to encourage demonstrators to leave the restricted area of campus.”

The summary goes on to say that “upon review of the information provided by professional staff at the demonstration, the information available online, and the information from the video footage, the following students were present at the protest and present in a restricted area of campus,” followed by a list of nine names. The Poly reached out to the individuals who were identified and listed.

Five of the students listed had received emails from either Assistant Dean of Student Living and Learning Kris Nolan-Parker or Associate

Dean of Residential Commons Michael A. Sitterley prior to November 9. All of those emails included the following: “I hope this email finds you well. As you are aware, a demonstration occurred on our campus last month. You were identified at this demonstration. I would like to meet with you to discuss your experience at the demonstration. Please know that you are not in any trouble, but it is important that we meet.” Students were then instructed to contact the sender and schedule a meeting.

See JUDICIAL, Page 2

STATISTICS

Sexual misconduct statistics available

Brookelyn Parslow  
Senior Reporter

MANY OF THE STATISTICS ASSOCIATED WITH SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AT RENSSELAER are considered public information, but they are currently only available upon request or through presentations given by Title IX coordinators.

The Poly was provided with information from the time period between February 1, 2015 and October 31, 2017. In this time, there have been 86 cases opened. Broken down by semester, there were 10 cases opened in Spring 2015, eight in Fall 2015, 11 in Spring 2016, 14 in Fall 2016, 23 in Spring 2017, and 20 in Fall 2017.

The cases were categorized, with 41 being considered sexual assault, 21 considered sexual harassment, 13 considered intimate partner violence, and 11 considered stalking.

62 of the 86 cases have been closed, and 48.39 percent of these resulted in policy violations. The sanctions for the policy violations included two “termination[s] (employee),” six “expulsions/permanent separation[s],” six “suspensions/delayed degree conferral[s],” and seven “disciplinary probation[s].” Eight of the sanctions were “other (written warning, educational program, persona non grata, etc),” and not specified further.

Of the 86 complainants that opened cases, four were considered to not be members of the Rensselaer community, either because they were “non-Rensselaer” or “unknown.” Of the respondents, 64 were “members of the Rensselaer community,” a phrase that encompasses people who were students, faculty, or staff at the time of the complaint. ♦

STUDENT RIGHTS

Specific updates to Handbook endorsed

Brookelyn Parslow  
Senior Reporter

AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER, ASSISTANT Vice President and Dean of Students Travis Apgar, along with Director for Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Judicial Affairs Michael Arno, presented changes to the Rensselaer Handbook for Student Rights and Responsibilities before both the Rensselaer Union Executive Board and the Student Senate.

They presented the changes largely as updates to outdated policies and clarifications of existing policies. Some were deemed necessary in order to keep the Handbook in accordance with mandates from the state and federal governments.

The Senate voted to postpone the handbook’s endorsement until the next week’s meeting on both September 25 and October 2.

On October 18, the Student Life Committee met and discussed the proposed revisions. Students suggested changes, one of which was

adding a provision to the “Sign Policy” that states “Any signs that do not violate the sign policy or have not passed the take-down date may not be removed by any part [sic], including the Institute.” Other suggestions included adding the term “neurodiversity” to the “Freedom of Access to Higher Education at Rensselaer” section and, in instances where Rensselaer-recognized organizations have been found to have served alcohol to underage individuals, replacing their subjection to a minimum “mandatory two-semester suspension” with “review by the Judicial Board that oversees that organization.”

During a Senate meeting on November 13, Student Life Committee Chairperson Hannah Merrow ’18 brought a motion regarding the proposed changes to the floor. She made clear that “there are specific differences” between the edits endorsed in the motion and the edits proposed to the Senate.

See HANDBOOK, Page 2

# Handbook: Codification of student voice passed

From **Page 1**

She stated, “Most of them are just either a change of wording, or taken out entirely, because the committee did not agree that those should be included.” She felt that “there was a lot of discourse on the edits to be made” and that the committee “did not feel comfortable moving forward, putting them in, without an increased student voice in the process.”

Specifically, one edit that included a change to the “Rules for Maintenance of Public Order” subsection “Procedures” was not included in the endorsement motion. It added the following sentence regarding demonstrations: “Only persons who are members of the Institute community (students, faculty, and staff) will be permitted to engage in such activities on Rensselaer property, and may only do so by complying with these procedures.”

One of the presented changes that was included in the motion removed all dates from the *Student Handbook*, and added a section in the introduction that states that review of the document will occur at least annually. It also added that Rensselaer may make changes at any time. Such changes will be “communicate[d] to the Rensselaer community,” but the specifics of that communication were not detailed.

In the motion, the SLC offered “necessary changes” that included adding the following paragraph to the end of the document’s introduction: “Changes to this Handbook shall be made if and only if there is direct involvement by the Student Life Committee and the changes are approved by the Student Senate by a two-thirds majority vote.”

On that subject, Grand Marshal Justin Etzine ’18 stated that “There’s definitely been opportunities for us to participate, and we’ve been promised involvements in the future, but from what I understand, it’s important to have some kind of codification of that so that stays past the people who are here right now.”

The Senate endorsed most of the other proposed edits, along with some “necessary changes” with a vote of 28-0-2. The full motion can be viewed at [poly.rpi.edu/s/fs4se](http://poly.rpi.edu/s/fs4se).

Merrow provided the following comment to *The Poly*: “In regards to the whole situation, I see this as another step in silencing student voice on campus. When the administration originally met to discuss the changes at the beginning of August, no students were involved. When the edits were brought to the Senate, without specific wording, they wanted blanket support of all of them, and when I brought the changes the committee had come up with to [Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students Travis] Apgar, he only took two of the many edits I had given to him, with a promise for further discussion on some others. All in all, Apgar hasn’t been receptive to student feedback and has forgone further meetings on the topic of the *Handbook* since our meeting.” ♦

# Judicial: Students seen near EMPAC contacted

*‘Highly tense moments’ during protest, ‘unclear what they would do next’ according to Apgar*

From **Page 1**

One of the students listed told *The Poly* that he “didn’t actually participate in the protest” and “was walking in the area of it since [he] usually use[s the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center] when going home.”

On November 10, graduate student Steven Sperazza and another individual, who were both identified and listed in the incident summary, were contacted by Administrative Coordinator Victoria Luzinas. They received emails that contained similar wording to those sent to other students, but differed notably in the following: “This is not a judicial matter, but it is important that you and Dean Smith meet to have an educational conversation.”

Apgar provided the following comment to *The Poly*: “It would be inappropriate for me to comment on any individual student’s situation related to the incident on October 13, 2017 in which individuals breached security barriers as part of an unauthorized demonstration which took place near the VCC. There is ample information to show that persons who have since been identified as current students were participants in the conduct. The area was partitioned off to accommodate an event that was taking place in multiple buildings in that area of campus on that evening. It is our duty to address such violations, and to determine the extent to which there may have been violations of Institute policies and standards. One of our goals in doing this is to educate our students, using every interaction as a growth and learning opportunity, and to respond with any appropriate consequences for the type and magnitude of the infraction. There are times that we accomplish these goals with simple non-judicial meetings and dialogue, and there are times when the conduct is serious enough that it is managed by the Rensselaer judicial process.

“In this particular situation, I had several conversations prior to October 13 in which I shared that, if people were to gather that day and comply with security procedures, including staying behind the partitioning, there would be no action necessary. That is not what transpired when the group made the decision to push through the partitioning and walk to the area of the event. I am incredibly thankful that no physical harm resulted from any of this group’s actions. There were highly tense moments during the time those individuals took the previously described actions, as it was unclear what they would do next. Thankfully, the Rensselaer Public Safety Officers, Troy Police, and other Rensselaer staff on the scene handled the matter with commendable calmness in the face of a crowd that did not seem to respect the boundaries.” ♦

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

# Clubs recognized, Union food discussed

**Jonathan Caicedo**  
*Senior Reporter*

FOR ITS 10TH MEETING OF THE SEMESTER, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD had a busy agenda that included a presentation from Sodexo, four clubs seeking some sort of status within the Union, and a proposal from RPI Ambulance. The meeting opened with a presentation from Rensselaer Hospitality Services General Manager Matt Mueller and Retail Director Louis Herman.

Their presentation focused on Sodexo’s recent changes and plans to improve dining offerings on campus in the future. Mueller emphasized the importance of including students in every major decision they make. He shared ideas, like introducing smaller food committees focused on each dining hall, which would be available to quickly act on suggestions and concerns.

Mueller then highlighted some of the changes Sodexo has been making recently—including “station breaks” at dining halls and partnering with local restaurants to provide their offerings to RPI, similar to the setup with Dinosaur BBQ earlier this semester. The two concluded their presentation by stressing their mission to best serve students through constant communication and work with students, and changing offerings to fit changing times.

Turning Point USA then came before the Board, seeking Union affiliation. Turning Point USA is non-partisan conservative organization with chapters at over 1000 high school and college campuses nationwide. Representatives from the club stated that they don’t aim to endorse candidates or push a particular agenda, but instead promote discussion and debate around political issues. After lengthy discussion, a motion to table the motion to grant Union affiliation to Turning Point until the end of the Executive Board meeting passed with a vote of 14-1-0. At the end of meeting, the motion was then again tabled until the next E-Board meeting with a vote of 12-1-1.

RPI Ambulance President Ciera Williams ’18 and Captain Harrison Leinweber ’18 presented a proposal to the board. They requested \$981.50 to rent a minivan to take students to an EMT class taught by Rensselaer County Ambulance Association.

Historically, the class was taught on-campus, but had to be moved due to sudden instructor changes. EMT certification is necessary to participate in RPI Ambulance, and Leinweber emphasized that most of the students that would be certified are freshman that would be around to benefit the organization



Jonathan Caicedo/*The Polytechnic*

**THE E-BOARD TABLED** a proposal to allow the RPI chapter of Turning Point USA to become Union affiliated. (file photo)

for a long period of time. A motion to allocate \$981.50 from the club contingencies fund to RPI Ambulance’s budget for the purposes of renting a minivan for the duration of the EMT class was approved by the board with a vote of 10-0-4.

The Unanimity of Culinary Alliance then came seeking Union recognition. UCA has operated for the past year, with the goal of being a “small and professional” way to give opportunities to students who love cuisine and food. UCA’s president emphasized the club’s mission of teaching students how to understand food, while respecting different cultures, and the dishes they have to offer. He then outlined some events UCA plans to offer—an activity called “Lecture of the Flame” where chefs are invited to campus to present on their culinary ideology and how the food industry operates, and “Chef’s Table,” that allows students to cook and present their dishes to the club. The board entertained a motion to make UCA a Union recognized club, which passed with a vote of 13-1-1.

The Society of Animals and Wildlife then also sought Union recognition. Founder Caitlin Markus ’19 shared that the goal of the club is to advocate for animal rights through

education and events. A motion to approve SAW as a Union recognized club passed with a vote of 13-0-1.

The final club that came before the Board was the African Student Association with a proposal to become Union recognized. The club originally began from a student’s difficulty to adjust to a new culture after transferring here as a sophomore. He hopes to provide an opportunity to the RPI community to further learn about African history and culture. The motion to approve ASA as a Union recognized club passed with a vote of 14-0-0.

Union Business Administrator Martha McElligott then gave the director’s report. She mentioned an initiative by the Clubhouse Pub to collect donations for an active-duty veteran, as well as offering live jazz on Friday, November 17. President of the Union Matt Rand ’19 also shared that the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Student Veterans Lounge has been postponed until next semester.

A motion to close the meeting to discuss the assistant director of student activities position then passed with a vote of 13-0-1. ♦



EMPAC EVENT

# Performances impacted by visa difficulties

Nicholas Luczak  
Staff Reporter

DUE TO VISA RESTRICTIONS, ALI MOINI was unable to join the Rensselaer community to exhibit his signature performance, *My Paradoxical Knives*, in the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center. Moini, a choreographer and performer, was hosted on Thursday via Skype call, and fans of his could have a dialogue about his artistic process.

Moini’s performance takes inspiration from his experience with Persian culture and everyday rituals. Moini performs in a costume with knives strapped to him so that, due to the revolving nature of his dance, they are kept in perpetual motion around his body.

EMPAC decided not to apply for a visa since Executive Order 13769 (poly.rpi.edu/s/tz1cc) signed by President Donald Trump on January 27, 2017 would make it impossible for Iranian citizens to enter the country even with a visa. Reports of border difficulties even for those who were granted the appropriate visa at the time gave further cause for doubts. EMPAC did not want to inconvenience the performers, and it became clear that the best course of action would be to simply cancel the visa request.

The travel ban will likely affect Iranian hand drummer Mohammad



Nicholas Luczak/The Polytechnic

ALI MOINI, A CHOREOGRAPHER AND PERFORMER, JOINED EMPAC staff and attendees in a video chat where he talked about his artistic process.

Reza Mortazavi, who is scheduled to perform in March 2018.

This semester, EMPAC—after consulting with various legal councilors—decided to try again and apply for an O-1B visa for Moini to perform this November. Moini’s visa application was approved on August 15, and he had his interview on September 1,

during which he provided all necessary documentation.

EMPAC has not heard anything on the status of his application and has not been updated since his interview. Moini was supposed to fly to the United States on November 7, but instead remains in his residency in Paris.

EMPAC attempted to under-

stand why the visa processing was delayed—as they have successfully acquired visas for other artists within this length of time—so they reached out to Congressman Paul Tonko’s office to try to get the Paris consulate to move forward.

Even after this additional effort, no definitive answer has been given.

They then went on to file a six month extension on the application so that, if the original visa application is approved, Moini could stay in the US for his performance some time within this six month period. As of right now, both drummer Mohammad Reza Mortazavi and Ali Moini are unlikely to perform during their planned performances. ♦

STUDENT SENATE

# Motion responding to judicial inquiries tabled



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

THREE MOTIONS PASSED: to approve amendments to the Senate bylaws and to endorse *Handbook* revisions. (file photo)

Darby Burns  
Senior Reporter

THE STUDENT SENATE HAD FOUR MAJOR MOTIONS BROUGHT BEFORE it on November 13: two motions to approve amendments to the *Bylaws of the Rensselaer Union Student Senate*, a motion to endorse the revisions to the *Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities*, and a motion to denounce the actions taken against students with regards to the protest. The first three motions passed, while the fourth was postponed indefinitely.

Graduate Student and Internal Reforms Committee Chairperson Steven Sperazza presented amendments to the Senate bylaws. The first motion requires committees without vice chairs to have an acting chair be selected to fulfill the vice chairperson’s duties in their absence. A subsequent motion to insert wording that would have the acting chair be

selected by the committee’s chair if possible or be selected by the grand marshal passed 21-0-1. With no further discussion, the original motion passed 21-0-1.

The next motion to be brought to the floor, also presented by Sperazza, was to amend to the title of the vice chair of the Senate to be the deputy grand marshal. Sperazza said that this was primarily in response to confusion from administrators over the role of the person who the title referred to. Vice Chair Ellie Mees ’18 then said that she believes the new title to be a step in the wrong direction and motioned to amend the word “deputy” to the word “vice”. After some discussion, where a suggestion of changing the title to “lieutenant” was also mentioned, the motion to amend came to a draw at 11-11. Grand Marshal Justin Etzine ’18 had the responsibility to cast the tie-breaking vote, electing to pass the amendment. Sperazza then motioned to change the word “vice” to “lieutenant,” which Etzine called out of order, saying, “This is

possibly one of the dumbest things...” Etzine’s ruling was challenged, but sustained after the Senate failed to muster the requisite two-thirds majority to overrule the chair. The overall motion to change the title of vice chair to vice grand marshal passed 17-3-2.

Student Life Committee Chairperson Hannah Merrow ’18 then presented a motion to endorse revisions to the *Handbook*. These amendments included the removal of all *Handbook* dates, updates of names and titles and changes in the sections regarding grounds for disciplinary action; components of the judicial system; record of disciplinary action; the policy on transcript notation; academic dishonesty; non-discrimination/equal-opportunity; computer use at Rensselaer; security technology, access control system and emergency phones; steam tunnels, designated confined spaces, and roofs; student sexual misconduct policy; and several changes that the Student Life Committee believes to be necessary. After some discussion, a motion was made to delete a section that had been accidentally repeated. That motion passed 22-0-0. After continued discussion, the motion passed 28-0-2.

The final motion, introduced by Merrow, was to denounce the actions that have taken place against students with regards to the protest on October 13, 2017, and to recognize those actions as violations of the *Student Bill of Rights*. Merrow said, “Many students have brought these egregious actions to my attention. Rights guaranteed first by the *United States Constitution* and again by the *Student Bill of Rights* should not be sacrificed for a petty witch hunt to prove a point.” Graduate Senator Anthony Bishop brought up that within the judicial system, there is a panel of students that can sit down with all the facts and render judgment on the issue. He believes that it would reflect better on the Senate if it lets the Judicial Board make its own judgement. He went on to say, “I implore you to just let things run their course.” When it was brought up that cases must be brought before the J-Board in order for them to vote on it, Bishop responded that students would have to appeal, something they can do if they feel that the accusations are unfair. Further discussion revealed that many senators believe that, because there has been no actual punishment issued, and only notices of judicial action, the situation has not become severe enough for the Senate to take action. A motion was made to postpone the motion indefinitely, which passed 19-1-2. ♦

# Editorial

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

## EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS

# Responsibilities, role of director of the Union

IT WAS NOT UNTIL RECENTLY THAT I FULLY UNDERSTOOD the weight that a director of the Union can hold, and how this position alone has the potential to make the Union no longer student-run.

A student-run Union lies largely in the fact that students have the ultimate say in all Union-related decisions. They are more than just “involved” in the decision-making process. There are risk management and liability considerations, but the Executive Board and its decisions receive no other formal oversight. A director of the Union would play into this as an advisor; the person in that position should ideally serve as a wealth of knowledge to students and the Board, provide continuity in a place where high turnover rates are inevitable, and ensure smooth operation of the Union on a day-to-day basis.

I have never gotten the opportunity to experience having a director of the Union, but there have been many instances where I wished the position were filled. Regardless, I remain apprehensive. As a member of the Executive Board, I know that the Union is capable of its operations with the staff that we have, even if it is not ideal. I am worried that a director will overstep her bounds, especially since the job description used to recruit the current candidates specified the role as “directing” student government bodies, instead of “advising.”

In trying to fully understand this topic, I have spoken with a variety of people. In an email, former Grand Marshal Julia Leusner ’08 outlined her relationship with the director of the Union at the time. The following quote of hers has stuck with me: “At no time when I sought advice

or had questions for the director did I feel pressured to follow a directive or act a certain way.” This is exactly what we should expect from a director of the Union. The person in that position should not have an agenda that extends beyond advocating on behalf of students.

The Executive Board lacking strict administrative oversight allows students to make the Union whatever they want it to be. It is okay if students want and pursue something that isn’t necessarily in line with the goals of the Institute, and such freedom gives students the room to explore and create what simply cannot exist on other campuses.

It is when a director of the Union overrides a decision of the Executive Board, for instance, that the Union can no longer be considered student-run. It is when the director attempts to “direct” or “manage” student government bodies, rather than advise them, that the Union can no longer be considered student-run. Yet, if the person hired into that position truly understands her place in the Union, she should never even come close to that.

I hope that, whenever the position is filled, the director of the Union will understand and respect the boundaries of advisement. I hope that, if there are disagreements or worries, the director will have long, productive conversations about them with the Board until a consensus is reached, as opposed to exercising powers that she does not, and should never, have. I hope that whoever comes into the position has a deep respect for the amount of time and energy students have put into this Union over the past however many years, and that she would never do anything to undermine that. ◇



**Brookelyn Parslow**  
Managing Editor

# Getting in tune with emotions

I HAD A PRETTY ROUGH OCTOBER, MOSTLY FOR PERSONAL REASONS that I won’t quite get to in this article. However, if anything good came from it, it’s that, overall, it was a fairly insightful month for me. I learned to get more in touch with my feelings, to become attuned to the diverse range of emotions I felt, and to handle things optimistically with dignity and self-respect... Look, I’m probably the last person who should be giving advice about life—I’ve never thought that I was particularly good at it—but I feel it’s important to express the things that were running through my head during a time when I believed things wouldn’t get any better.

I tend to dwell on my problems, so much that there’s no way it can be healthy. I let them consume me—they flood my thoughts and dictate my actions. I knew I couldn’t let that happen this past October. The one thing I told myself early on was to pretend nothing was wrong, and to continue my life as normally as I could. That isn’t to say I completely ignored the issue afflicting my life altogether, but it definitely helped me define the boundaries in which it would influence the rest of my life. At first, I felt out of my element—I’m always the type of person who tries to tackle problems head on, before they get any worse, but this “kind of distancing” myself from my problem really helped me come to terms with it—it showed that I the one was in control of the situation, and not the problem.

My temperament has never been the best. I’ve always tended to lash out at sources of stress in my life, whether they be things or people. I’ve never seriously put much thought into how that one minute of anger in the heat of the moment could seriously impact my relationships with others. This past month, I really learned how to wrangle that, and realized that getting angry ultimately only makes things worse. In my situation, by not getting mad, I had everything to gain, and absolutely nothing to lose. It really made me conscientious of how my emotions impact those around me—and I realized that I don’t want it to be in a negative way anymore. The people around me, and my relationships with them, are way too important to sacrifice because of one minute of anger and frustration.

I’ve never been hesitant to talk about my problems with people I care about; in fact, it’s what keeps me from losing my sanity most of the time. Now, there’s a time and place for everything, and talking about problems is no exception—don’t make it the crux of every conversation you have, but realize that opening up in a way that you feel comfortable with can help magnitudes. If the root of your problem stems from another person, this advice still applies. Constructive conversations can easily come from a willingness to sit down and talk about differences in a productive manner—it’s a non-confrontational way to solve so many issues.

If there’s one thing I want you to learn from this notebook, it’s that you control your emotions... not the other way around. You choose how to best handle what life decides to throw at you, and make do with the cards you’re dealt. It worked out for me—granted, things aren’t perfect, but I’d say I’m in a much better place right now than I was at this time one month ago. Take grasp of the negative things in your life, and use them to push yourself forward, learn about yourself, and become a better individual. ◇



**Jonathan Caicedo**  
Contributing Editor

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# Unconditional expression

ON MONDAY, THE STUDENT SENATE decided not to pass a motion “to denounce the actions being taken against students in relation to the demonstration on October 13, 2017,” regardless of Institute actions that impose on free speech.

Many senators voiced their opinions that the Senate should not support this motion, since the outcomes of the judicial inquiries haven’t yet been determined. One senator remarked, “If more severe things happen, we should definitely be on board saying we denounce it, but I think maybe we’re jumping up in arms too quickly.” Others expressed that, since there has been no official judicial action in terms of punishment, passing the motion would be “jumping the gun.”

The motion was ultimately postponed indefinitely, with a vote of 19-1-2.

The judicial inquiries referenced in the meeting include allegations of “trespassing,” “failure to comply,” and “violation of a published Rensselaer/student government policy or regulation.” Additionally, nine students have been contacted in order to “discuss their experience at the demonstration,” even though they are not currently the subjects of a judicial inquiry. To *The Poly*’s knowledge, during the protest, RPI did not instruct demonstrators to leave or indicate that they were violating any regulations set forth in the *Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities*.

Senators, faced with a situation in which their fellow classmates are victims of the Institute’s active efforts to incriminate student demonstrators, decided that they could not take a stance at this time. However, *The Poly* believes that the Senate must take action now. Whether or not students end up charged with any of these allegations, the effect of RPI’s actions is the same—chilling speech that is critical of the administration.

*The Poly* supports unconditional freedom of expression. We urge the Student Senate to not only affirm existing student rights, but also work to actively defend and extend freedom of speech, demonstration, and expression at Rensselaer. ◇

Interested in contributing to *The Poly*? Email [poly@rpi.edu](mailto:poly@rpi.edu)!



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Addressing recent judicial actions regarding demonstration, threats to free speech at RPI

CLASSMATES,

Several students have informed us that they were contacted by the Dean of Students Office, either by email from a staff member or through a formal judicial inquiry notice, as they have been identified as allegedly participating in a peaceful demonstration that occurred on October 13, 2017.

We—alongside innumerable students, faculty, staff, and even administrators—are both shocked and appalled by the recent revelations as well as the actions taken against these students.

Yesterday, Grand Marshal Justin Etzine ’18 reached out to Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students Travis Apgar to express his concerns regarding these communications and to notify him that he would be remiss if we failed to communicate to you important information about student rights, in addition to his addressing the issue as grand marshal—the chief spokesperson of the student body—given the serious circumstances.

Disappointingly, Apgar denied the information we had received first-hand from students impacted, though the documents we reviewed clearly indicated otherwise, and he stated that sharing this information with the student body would be irresponsible because the facts are “incorrect.” He insisted, with regards to the October 13 demonstration, that “there has been no harassment or coercion of students, nor has the Institute denied students access for the purposes of censorship or to suppress an activity,” and that “we have a responsibility to address alleged violations of Institute policy or regulations.”

As the dean of students, Apgar has the unique responsibility of advocating for students, upholding the *Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities* in a fair and consistent manner, and being truthful in his dealings with the student body. As such, his office’s aggressive approach of moving to sanction students for invoking

their rights is irresponsible. Given the already fragile state of student rights on campus, brandishing the *Handbook* and misconstruing the facts of a peaceful demonstration only serve to further weaken students’ perception of the administration while making the expression of free speech on this campus seem more perilous than ever.

As attendees of the capital campaign launch event, we had the opportunity to see firsthand that the students participating in the demonstration were some of the most respectful demonstrators we have ever observed. They appeared calm, and their behavior on a whole was commendable. At one point during the protest, demonstrators even paused their speeches to join former Vice President for Student Life Eddie Ade Knowles and his students in song at Knowles’ invitation. We have nothing but admiration for the students who had the courage to respectfully support and believe in the future of our Union, something we all care so deeply about, and we know that law enforcement and Department of Public Safety officers present also commended students for the excellent behavior and unparalleled respect they exhibited throughout the demonstration. Officials were also quoted as inviting the student protesters to pass the fenced off area and proceed closer to the event area. As the administration never instructed the students that they could not proceed or that they should stop, the students present were in full compliance with Rensselaer policies, notably the *Handbook*, and the instructions they were given.

We also observed the fence that formed a large perimeter around the main campus and can confirm that we received no official Institute announcement detailing information about the boundary or that its borders constituted a restricted area. In fact, students were invited to observe the fireworks show that evening from a location that fell within the fenced-in part of campus. Considering the fence wasn’t mentioned until after news broke that a protest would occur, we certainly join

the countless students and alumni in questioning its sudden appearance. Students and staff who were present have indicated that at no point did event personnel give instructions to students to modify their conduct or vacate the premises, further calling into question the validity and applicability of the accusations being made. Article V of RPI’s “Student Bill of Rights” guarantees that “the denial of access to facilities or reduction of funds shall not be used by the Institute or the Rensselaer Union as a means of censorship or suppression of any lawful activity.” Unfortunately, on October 13, this is precisely what appeared to occur.

Please remember: as students, you have rights. Read the “Student Bill of Rights,” especially if you are one of the students affected by these judicial inquiries, which includes the right to refuse to answer questions. Students who are going through the judicial process are also entitled to a student judicial advisor. This and other information on judicial affairs may be found in the *Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities*, located at poly.rpi.edu/s/3makj, which is always available on the Dean of Students Office website at poly.rpi.edu/s/qv4z5. Additionally, many alumni have expressed interest and offered help for affected students through various means. Please feel free to reach out to us with your specific concerns, including any related to the judicial process here at RPI, and we will do everything in our power to aid you.

Sincerely,

Justin Etzine ’18  
152nd Grand Marshal

Matthew Rand ’19  
128th President of the Union

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Apgar’s actions lack honesty, repressive

Demonstration not tense; projection of anxiety

I WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND TO ASSISTANT VICE President and Dean of Students Travis T. Apgar briefly:

I was the one who the assistant chief of the Troy Police talked to about the boundaries, and what he said exactly was, “You’ve won this battle; just stay on the grass and off the sidewalk and you’ll be fine.” At no point was it tense, and the only other time anyone gave us instructions was when former Vice President for Student Life Eddie Ade Knowles asked us to come closer so we could better enjoy the performance he was leading.

At no point did Apgar make any effort to have a dialogue with the demonstration.

His lack of understanding of the intentions is his own fault due to his inability to govern without authoritarianism, and that inability alone. This kind of bald-faced lie only serves to further illustrate the lack of honesty and integrity that the administration has demonstrated over the last two years. Perhaps, rather than project his own anxiety onto the events of October 13, Apgar should respect the primacy of student rights and work to serve the students rather than repress the students.

Dan Seel ’18

*The Polytechnic* will not be printing on November 22 due to Thanksgiving Break. *The Poly* wishes you all a pleasant time away from school. Our next issue will be on November 29.

the polytechnic

Editor in Chief

Sidney Kochman

poly@rpi.edu

Editorial Board

Senior Managing Editor  
Managing Editor  
Managing Editor  
Contributing Editor  
Contributing Editor  
News Editor  
Business Manager  
Features Editor  
de facto Sports Editor  
Editorial/Opinion Editor  
Composing Editor  
Copy Editor  
Photography Editor  
de facto Web Editor  
Associate Features Editor  
Associate Features Editor  
Associate Ed/Op Editor  
Associate Photography Editor  
Associate Photography Editor

Tyler Carney  
Rex Hu  
Brookelyn Parslow  
Jonathan Caicedo  
Joseph Lyon  
Darby Burns  
Peter Begonja  
Serge Piskun  
Joseph Lyon  
Crystal Vejar  
Ana Wishnoff  
Nicholas Luczak  
Elena Perez  
Joseph Lyon  
Anahit Hovhannisyan  
Anna Koenig  
Annie Yu  
Stephanie Tan  
Nicole Chen

poly@rpi.edu  
poly@rpi.edu  
poly@rpi.edu  
poly@rpi.edu  
poly@rpi.edu  
news@poly.rpi.edu  
business@poly.rpi.edu  
features@poly.rpi.edu  
sports@poly.rpi.edu  
edop@poly.rpi.edu  
composing@poly.rpi.edu  
copy@poly.rpi.edu  
photo@poly.rpi.edu  
web@poly.rpi.edu  
features@poly.rpi.edu  
features@poly.rpi.edu  
edop@poly.rpi.edu  
photo@poly.rpi.edu  
photo@poly.rpi.edu

Coordinators

Advertising Director  
Graphics Director  
Web and Systems Director  
Systems Coordinator  
Copy Coordinator  
Copy Coordinator

Brookelyn Parslow  
Ana Wishnoff  
Sidney Kochman  
Jonathan Caicedo  
Maria Kozdroy  
Evan Barr

ads@poly.rpi.edu  
graphics@poly.rpi.edu  
systems@poly.rpi.edu  
systems@poly.rpi.edu  
copy@poly.rpi.edu  
copy@poly.rpi.edu

Production Staff: David Raab, Nicholas Sanchez

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

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

Editorial and Business offices are located in Room 3418 of the Rensselaer Union, Troy, New York, 12180-3590. Subscription and advertising rates can be forwarded upon request. Subscriptions are sent via first class mail. Address correction requested.

Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885



RESTAURANT REVIEW

Minar introduces flavorful, spicy cuisine



Crystal Vejar/The Polytechnic

A NEW INDIAN RESTAURANT OPENS downtown with delicious food, free delivery, and a student discount.

Serge Piskun  
Senior Reviewer

THIS WEEK, CRYSTAL VEJAR '20 AND I decided to check out Troy's newest Indian restaurant: Minar. Nested on 5th Avenue, near Blitman Residence Commons, it strives to be the go-to hotspot for students craving curry and other traditional Indian foods. The

grand opening was in September, and the place was decorated in banners and streamers. They also have lots of coupons and deals on their menu available at the restaurant.

To make this a fair review we decided to get two of the most popular dishes, as these are statistically the ones that students would likely get when their cravings for Indian

food hit. We decided on one order of chicken tikka masala, one order of chicken korma, and an order of garlic naan. A few days after, we ordered delivery to try some of the appetizers. We ordered chicken ceylon and malai kabab as our entrees, and aloo tikiyas and samosas as the appetizers. We ordered the malai kabab as a special, which included

basmati rice, naan bread, cucumber raita, and mango chutney.

Starting off with the tikka masala, we both agreed that it was pretty good. It was a different style of tikka masala from the one I get at home in Massachusetts, as this one was a bit spicier and the sauce was not as creamy. However, when mixed with rice the dish became pristine. The chicken korma, on the other hand, was even better. It was rich and creamy, with a much sweeter tasting sauce than the tikka masala. Also, I liked how the rice was cooked—which may seem like a small thing—but it made all the difference. The side of garlic naan was a welcome addition to my meal. One order of naan consisted of four pieces, which is enough for two people. To end our meal, we were given a complimentary small cup of rice pudding, which was very well made and delicious.

For the delivery order, the aloo tikiyas were thick and flavorful, making a great appetizer. The order came with two of the potato cakes. The samosas came with two as well, and were also dense and delicious. They were the perfect amount of spicy and crispy without feeling oily. The chicken ceylon was super spicy. When we first opened the dish, it smelled sweet and coconutty, but one spoonful was enough to make both of us need a quick drink of

water. However, the dish itself was extremely flavorful, just not made for those with a mild sense of taste. The chicken malai kabob was also great, with hints of lemon and cilantro. It was served as just chicken over some caramelized onions, with some cilantro on top and a wedge of lemon. This was easily the number one dish we tried at Minar—a perfect meal for those not looking for lots of spice.

During our second round with Minar, we were able to try out their delivery service, as well as some of their appetizers and a dessert. A huge plus about ordering delivery from Minar is that they don't charge a delivery fee, which makes it just as easy as take out. We were able to order and get about 45 minutes of homework in before the food arrived, which is a little on the longer side for a wait time but is completely understandable considering it's not fast food. Regrettably, as we ordered takeout and delivery, we weren't able to experience the restaurant in its sit-down form. The interior seemed small but cozy, with about eight or so tables that were decently spaced apart. For any RPI student that wishes to go there, bring your student ID! They are currently giving a discount for students with an ID, which makes the place even more affordable. Overall, we really enjoyed this culinary adventure. ♦

ALBUM REVIEW

Taylor Swift matures through new sound

Keegan Fitzgerald  
A Special to the Poly

ON THE OUTSIDE, TAYLOR SWIFT'S NEW album *Reputation* is composed of celebrity feuds, ex-boyfriends, and her new image. (Nothing worthy of taking time out of my day to write an article for *The Poly*.) If you want it to be, the album is predictable. At a deeper level, the album is found to be a cohesive piece that combines deep bass and tight snare beats to synth tropical-house choruses that Taylor uses to emphasize the message that she has expressed through the creativity of each one of her albums: music is an art that is always changing.

With a synth that provides a bright yet somber tone, the songs each take on a feel of their own when paired with a dynamic baseline, giving the album a foundation upon which each song can flow into the next.

The opening track, "...Ready For It?" provides the general structure for the majority of the songs, with an opening verse that dives deep into the baseline with a muted hi-hat and exciting snare that open surprisingly into the aforementioned synth chord-progressions. These give the listener a breath of fresh air before again diving into the bass. The contrast is most notable in the first song, making it aptly named for an introductory piece, playing at the possibility that the rest of the album may be more than we bargained for.

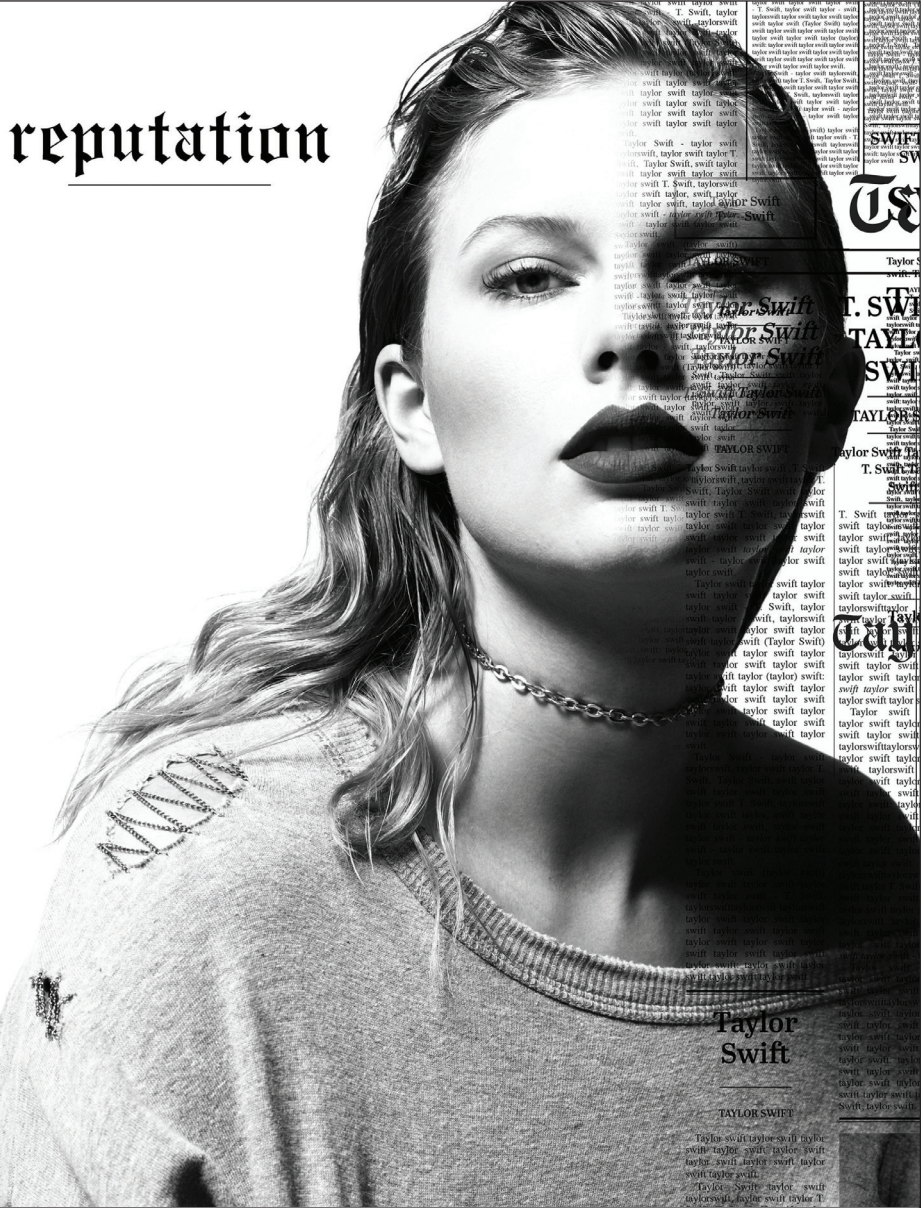
Synth repeatedly mixes with bass drops that are, quite honestly, unexpected for Taylor Swift; a deeper step into the pop genre that may be newer for her, but definitely not unfamiliar. The cut time in "Dancing with Our Hands Tied," the syncopation in "King of My Heart," or the major

key change during the bridge of "Getaway Car," all demonstrate a masterful familiarity with the ins and outs of pop composition that characterize the powerful genre.

Notable are tracks such as "Delicate," "Dress," and "Call It What You Want." They place less emphasis on a beat drop and more on the vocals and synth, allowing for the lyrics to shine through. In the beginning of "Delicate," absent of a baseline, Taylor proclaims the namesake of the album with the line "my reputation has never been worse." If the driving bass allows Taylor to show off her new tricks with pop, then the lack of it is a nod to the lyrical prowess she has retained from her singer-songwriter days.

The final nod to her development as a musician is the final song on the album, "New Year's Day." Taylor ends with pure vocals backed by a piano and guitar accompaniment. Immediately, we are taken back to the very beginning of her career, where heavy electronic instrumentation was not part of the stylings of Taylor Swift. It's as if we are led back down the path that we have traveled through each album—back to the artist she was ten years ago.

But the message behind this album, the message most vividly depicted by "New Years Day," is that though Taylor has changed, she is the same. She has grown. Her music has grown. What we are left with is not a different Taylor, but a matured Taylor who has written an album that is recognizable not through its similarities to her old work, but through its novelty. What we are left with is tight harmonies, a mess of a party on New Year's Day, and a request to "hold onto the memories." ♦



Courtesy of Big Machine Records

REPUTATION, RELEASED ON NOVEMBER 10, MIXES synth sounds with Swift's old pop.



STUDENT EVENT

# Hackathon harbors software creativity

Joseph Lyon  
Senior Reviewer

ON SATURDAY IN THE DARRIN COMMUNICATIONS Center, HackRPI kicked off its hackathon as a part of the 18th Major League Hacking season. The annual hackathon is a 24-hour competition where participants are encouraged to work on any project they can create within the allotted time, with a focus on software and hardware hacks. The event was sponsored by several companies, including TripAdvisor and Bloomberg. Teams competed in several categories, which included the best use of Amazon AWS, the best hardware hack, and some specific competition areas like best use of the new Qualcomm DragonBoard 410c.

Although I was not able to find the time to compete, I did get a chance to walk around the venue, talk to sponsors, and interact with participants. Walking in for the first time, I was greeted by the friendly volunteers running the competition; I was

invited to register and receive my t-shirt. I then talked to a few of the participants, who came from all over the northeast to compete. I spoke to a graduate student from Northwestern University who was competing in his first hackathon.

All in all, hackathons are a good place to get your computer science creative juices flowing. Everyone is working on similar projects and resources are provided to you to work, including AWS credits and domain names. This years hackathon saw the development of several interesting projects; personally, I found Village, by Kayla Cinnamon '18 and graduate student Candice Poon, located at poly.rpi.edu/s/hk8k3, to be interesting.

As someone who very thoroughly enjoys hackathons, I have to highly recommend attending one, especially to anyone who is looking for a way to flex their development ability. ♦

SHOW REVIEW

# Arcadia production memorable, clever

Darby Burns  
Staff Reviewer

ARCADIA CONSISTS OF TWO DISTINCTLY SEPARATE, BUT INTRINSICALLY INTERTWINED STORYLINES, that span the year of 1809 and the present day. The first tells the tale of young Thomasina Coverly, played by graduate student Hannah De Los Santos, and her tutor Septimus Hodge, played by Matt Fields '18. The second revolves around Hannah Jarvis, played by Sam Primm '21; Bernard Nightingale, played by Sam O'Connor '21; and Valentine Coverly, played by graduate student Marcus J. Barbret, who are working to uncover the mysteries of what happened in the manor almost a century ago.

I won't spoil it for those who haven't gone yet, but I will say that the play is full of intrigue, witty banter, snappy dialogue, and just enough math to keep things interesting. The actors fully embodied their characters and played their roles with lively, whole-hearted enthusiasm that really made the story come alive. It was clear from the way the actors played their parts that they really connected with the characters they were portraying.

When I spoke with Fields after the show, he expressed that when choosing the play, "We just weighed [Arcadia] against all the other options and we decided that we loved the writing here, we loved the symbolism, and that's what came through." He went on to say, in reference to his own performance, "This has been one of my favorite roles. I've just been able to really dig deep into the character, get some comedic moments out there as well, and just create this persona that I hope came across on stage."

Beyond just the fantastic acting, the set for the show is gorgeous. It is the product of 60–70 collective hours of work, divided over the course of five different work parties. (Work parties are when people come in on a Friday night work on the set, props, costumes, and anything that needs to be done to prepare for the upcoming show, with usually five to seven people working at a time.) The set is made up of a long, wooden table strewn with books and surrounded on three sides by chairs. There are two doorways, one on each side of the stage, and in the background there are tall bookshelves alternating with large windowpanes and a set of double doors in the middle. Beyond the windows, you can see a hint of foliage that gives the feeling of the garden outside that is frequently discussed throughout the play. The set overall is artfully crafted but not overdone, and is simple enough to keep the attention of the audience focused on the actors.

Arcadia is definitely worth taking the time to go see if you have the chance. Tickets are six dollars at the door with your student ID, and the play will be showing again on Friday, November 17 and Saturday, November 18, both at 8 pm. ♦

Are you interested in placing an advertisement with *The Poly*?  
Email [ads@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:ads@poly.rpi.edu) for more information.



## Chapel + Cultural Center SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FALL 2017

### NOVEMBER

11/15 – Wednesday, 7:00pm  
**Religion and the Arts:**  
Four women artists from the Capital Region discuss their creative and spiritual paths and offer samples of their work. Moderator: Joseph Dalton. Artists: dancer and scholar Kimerer LaMothe, author and minister Jo Page, visual artist and clairvoyant Marina Petro, and composer and poet Hilary Tann. FREE and open to the public.

11/16 – 7:30pm  
**Capital Pride Singers Concert**  
Join the Capital Pride Singers at the C+CC for their fall performance Jukebox!

11/17 – Friday, 8:00pm  
**A Night at the Museum, (no relation) with Duly Noted**  
Join Duly Noted, RPI's one and only all male a cappella group, for their fall 2017 concert. Tickets are available at the DCC for \$3 or \$5 at the door.

11/18 – Saturday, 1:00-5:00pm  
**C+CC 50th Anniversary Craft Sale**  
Shop for unique gifts such as handmade scarves, cards, ornaments, wreaths, jewelry and more, at great prices, that support a wonderful cause!

11/22 – Wednesday, 6:00pm  
**Celebrate Thanksgiving**  
Mass at 6:00pm will be followed by a soup and salad dinner. No Mass on Thanksgiving Day.

### DECEMBER

12/2 – Friday, 8:00pm  
**Partial Science - Partial Credit's Fall Show!**  
Join Partial Credit A Cappella on Saturday, December 2nd as we host a night filled with science and song, featuring Pitch Please from UAlbany! Tickets are \$6 at the door, \$5 in advance.

12/5 – Tuesday, 7:00pm  
**Why get so Religious about Star Wars**  
Alissa Wilkinson '05 grad from RPI and Staff writer and critic at Vox.com. Join us for a dialog about religion in Star Wars.

12/24 – Sunday, 10:30pm  
**Christmas Eve**  
The University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice at the Chapel + Cultural Center invites all of God's people to join us as we celebrate the Christmas Season. Mass at 5:15pm will focus on children. Prelude of Carols will begin at 10:30pm followed by the Mass of the Deepest Night.

All Are Welcome  
[ChapelandCulturalCenter.org](http://ChapelandCulturalCenter.org)

ACTIVITY SPOTLIGHT

# NROTC midshipmen practice leadership

**Zachary Christian**  
*A Special to the Poly*

RECENTLY, RPI NROTC UNDERWENT leadership labs run by the Archer Center for Student Leadership Development in order to increase unit cohesion and enhance skills that will be utilized by midshipmen in their future naval careers. The Archer Center personnel organized several fun stations that emphasized teamwork and communication in order to complete a task.

They were very helpful with each task, leading debriefs that further informed the midshipmen following the completion of the task. One of these stations featured a challenge to get across a “toxic river” in order to retrieve a care package. The catch was that all midshipmen participating must be on top of a sheet of plywood. The midshipmen were supplied with several tennis balls, as well as two crutches to push the sheet forward. The midshipmen were not allowed to touch the ground in any way, alluding to the toxicity of the metaphorical river.

The task, however difficult, taught the midshipmen that the planning phase of a task is sometimes just as important as its execution. The “toxic river” challenge also emphasized effective communication, since moving the board was difficult without properly shifting momentum in unison.

Another interesting task further emphasized the importance



Courtesy of RPI NROTC

**MIDSHIPMAN JASON BROOKS '18 (LEFT) ALONG WITH OTHER NROTC MIDSHIPMEN ENGAGE in hands-on activites hosted by the Archer Center.**

of communication. The assignment given to the midshipmen was to build a figure made out of Legos in order to perfectly match the example figure, hidden in another room. Certain midshipmen were given different roles such as “writer,” “builder,” or “talker.” The “writers” could not talk

about the figure they saw, but had the ability to write down their observations. On the other hand, the “talkers” could not write anything down, but could talk to the builders in order to help match the figures. Neither the “talkers” nor the “writers” could build any part of the figure. This task drove

the midshipmen to specifically designate responsibility as well as effectively communicate what they saw. Based on how the assignment was designed, poor communication would lead to failure in accomplishing the task.

Overall, the leadership labs were both fun and informative,

allowing the midshipmen to take a break from their typical training. The Archer Center personnel are to be commended for helping shape the midshipmen to be better prepared for their future careers. ♦

Dude,  
what is the  
problem?

eship.1 Event

Tell us about a problem that seems  
unsolvable and you could win \$500.  
Think Big.

Contact SCTE@rpi.edu  
by December 1



# Events

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

## WEDNESDAY

November 15

**Bio-Art initiatives: Art\_X, HASS and CBIS Research Roundtable**  
*SAGE 4711; noon–1:30 pm*

Prof. Kathy High will lead a discussion on new initiatives in Bio-Art between CBIS and HASS, and synergies with Art\_X and other programs. High will report on her research and the work of grads and undergrads. A light lunch will be available.

**Civil & Env. Eng. Fall Seminar Series**  
*JEC 3117; 1–2 pm*

Dr. Thomas Zimmie presents a lecture titled “ELECTRO-OSMOSIS-THE BEGINNINGS IN CIVIL ENGINEERING, including U-BOAT PENS and SPIES.” This presentation is a historical talk about the early applications of electro-osmosis in the practice of Civil Engineering.

**MANE “Innovators in Engineering” Lecture**  
*CBIS Auditorium; 2–3 pm*

Mukesh Chatter, an RPI alum, will discuss innovation as a key factor in finding optimized engineering solutions. While linear extrapolation often provides reasonable improvement from the prevailing answers, it may be sub-optimum.

**ECSE Seminar**  
*DCC 324; 3:30 pm*

Professor M. Ehsan Hoque, Department of Computer Science, University of Rochester. “Can a Computer Improve Your Social Skills?” This seminar will offer insights gained from exploration of several questions: How are humans able to improve important social and cognitive skills with a computer? What aspect of the feedback helps the most? How to design experiments to ensure that the skills generalize?

**Lally Center for Supply Networks and Analytics Seminar**  
*CBIS Auditorium; 4:30–6:30 pm*

The Lally School of Management Center for Supply Networks and Analytics will host a seminar, “Operational Disruptions and the Value of Credible Control,” with William Schmidt.

**African Students Association**  
*Union 3202; 6–7 pm*

The African Students Association will be holding a general body meeting.

**Religion and the Arts**  
*C+CC; 7–8 pm*

Four women artists from the Capital Region will discuss their creative and spiritual paths and present samples of their work.

## FRIDAY

November 17

**Laura Luna**  
*EMPAC Studio 2; 7:30–8:30 pm*

Mexican multimedia artist and composer Laura Luna creates a concert performance inside EMPAC’s 360-degree panoramic screen. Using field recordings, voice, a modded Atari computer, a Gameboy and various synths, she constructs sounds to describe fantastical scenes and narratives, creating soundtracks for sublimely fogged-in science fiction worlds.

## SATURDAY

November 18

**EMPAC Tour**  
*EMPAC; 2–3 pm*

As curator of time-based visual arts, Victoria Brooks approaches the EMPAC infrastructure with an eye toward its capabilities in the production and presentation of film and video. With past projects utilizing green-screen staging, 360-degree VR technology, and robotically rigged “flying” cameras, as well as integrated “film performances,” Brooks will discuss her perspective on the EMPAC spaces.

## TUESDAY

November 21

**Thanksgiving Recess Begins**  
**Enjoy your break!**

**Last day for undergraduates to add Pass/No Credit designation**

**Thanksgiving Travel Gateways Shuttle Service**  
*EMPAC Studio 2; 7:30–8:30 pm*

RPI Thanksgiving shuttles & CDTA bus service to air, rail, and bus are available Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 am, noon, and 2 pm. Transportation back to campus is available Sunday, November 26, 4 pm, 6 pm, and 8 pm.

**Star Wars All Age Trivia**  
*Mother’s; 7:30–9:30 pm*

A fun all-age trivia night with a *Star Wars* theme to benefit Clothe-A-Child. Teams of four test their Star Wars knowledge. The top three teams will be awarded prizes. Pizza and soda will be provided. \$20 registration fee per team will benefit Clothe-A-Child. To register, stop into the Union Administration Office, Room 3702.

Are you interested in placing  
an advertisement in *The Poly*?

Email [ads@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:ads@poly.rpi.edu) for more  
information!

DILBERT

by Scott Adams

TOP TEN LIST

SORRY I'M LATE. THERE WAS A BIG ACCIDENT ON THE FREEWAY.

NOT ACCORDING TO MY TRAFFIC APP.

JUST OUT OF CURIOSITY, WHAT TYPES OF EXCUSES ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO CHECK WITH AN APP?

OUR NEW PRODUCT IS A WATCH THAT MONITORS EVERY ASPECT OF YOUR HEALTH.

WEARING THE WATCH IS MANDATORY FOR ALL EMPLOYEES. YOUR DATA WILL AUTOMATICALLY STREAM TO OUR CLOUD STORAGE.

SURE. WE'LL GO WITH THAT.

BECAUSE YOU CARE ABOUT OUR HEALTH?

I CAN'T COME TO WORK TODAY. I'M TOTALLY SICK.

ACCORDING TO YOUR EMPLOYEE HEALTH MONITOR, YOU'RE NOT SICK AT ALL.

STUPID SNITCH!!!

YOUR HEALTH TRACKER SAYS YOU ARE LEAVING WORK AT THE END OF EACH DAY WITH ENERGY TO SPARE.

THAT'S EXACTLY LIKE STEALING FROM THE COMPANY.

YOU WANT ME TO WORK UNTIL I DROP?

I'M NOT ALLOWED TO SAY THAT DIRECTLY.

TED, YOUR PERFORMANCE IS POOR. I NEED TO LET YOU GO.

IS IT A COINCIDENCE THAT YOU'RE FIRING ME AT THE SAME TIME MY EMPLOYEE HEALTH MONITOR DETECTED CARDIOVASCULAR RISK?

HOW GOOD ARE THE PREDICTIVE ANALYTICS ON THIS?

DON'T MAKE LUNCH PLANS.

ACCORDING TO YOUR EMPLOYEE HEALTH MONITOR, YOUR LACK OF SLEEP LAST NIGHT IS HAMPERING YOUR MENTAL FUNCTIONS.

LET'S END THE MEETING AND TRY AGAIN WHEN YOUR BRAIN IS WORKING BETTER.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

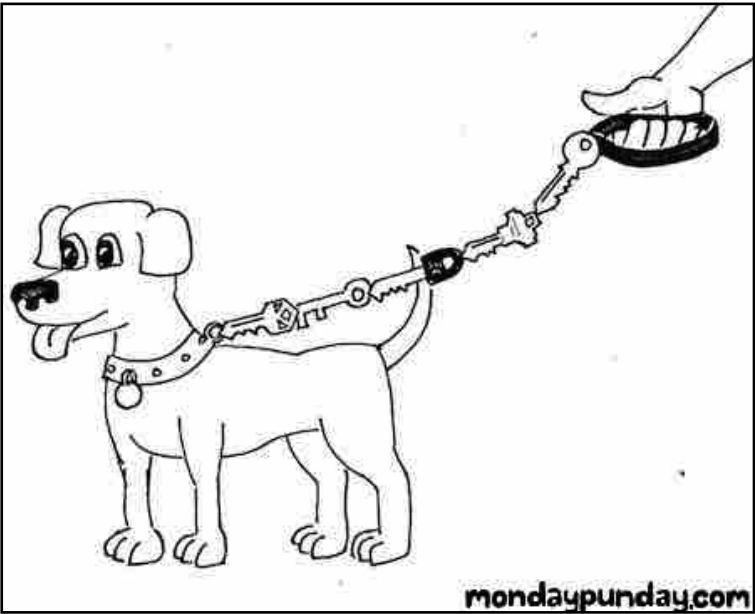
THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE DATA.

- # Thanks
10. Efcharistó
  9. Grazie
  8. Takk
  7. Xiè Xiè
  6. Mahalo
  5. Danke
  4. Arigatō
  3. Merci
  2. Gracias
  1. Thanks

MONDAY PUNDAY



mondaypunday.com



mondaypunday.com

SUDOKU

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

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

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



CRYPTOQUOTE

XKCD

by Randall Munroe

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

“Zpj, W suwpt sb ysfus f  
upibjcswbl, dcs twtl’s huwls  
plbcev hfghvjpsy yb vfutjr  
flrbp sculpt ch. Pamphs xbu  
gr gcg flt vpu dbrxuwplt, zvb  
W vfsp. Fy hclwyvgpls, W  
zfy xbumpt sb dp wl vpup flt  
dpmbgp f ejftwfsbu. Dws bx f  
hubgbswblfj twyfyspu svfs blp,  
dcs W’ g fmscfjir bueflwqwe  
flbsvpu upibjcswbl. W tbi’s  
klbz wx rbc’t dp wlsupyspt wl  
ybgpswle jwkp svfs? Tb rbc  
upmkbl rbc’t dp wlsupyspt?”

- Kbue,

*Svbu: Ufelfubk*

WORDFIND

by Ana Wishnoff

Words can be found forwards, backwards, up, down, and in both diagonals.

Big U.S. Cities

F	I	L	M	O	R	E	R	O	M	I	T	L	A	B
A	I	H	P	L	E	D	A	L	I	H	P	T	A	M
E	N	O	P	R	N	K	S	E	R	V	H	Y	U	O
L	E	A	S	C	E	S	B	O	S	T	O	N	E	H
T	W	D	D	R	W	I	N	G	T	G	E	O	D	N
T	Y	E	C	C	Y	M	O	R	A	E	N	N	A	F
A	T	N	V	O	O	S	E	C	U	W	I	B	R	S
E	R	V	R	P	R	A	I	L	O	P	X	A	E	A
S	K	E	T	L	K	H	M	N	D	S	S	K	L	S
H	A	R	U	Y	C	L	B	A	I	E	A	T	I	E
E	S	L	I	R	I	O	T	P	L	Y	U	I	H	R
P	K	N	L	E	T	P	R	E	F	V	P	E	P	V
O	L	M	W	A	Y	E	G	A	E	N	M	S	C	G
G	O	E	A	D	D	N	F	S	E	A	T	O	W	H
R	I	W	S	T	A	R	D	E	R	L	T	J	A	T
Y	R	R	H	S	A	N	D	I	E	G	O	N	R	Y
E	T	H	O	U	S	T	O	N	Y	D	F	A	E	J
S	A	L	A	S	V	E	G	A	S	O	L	S	F	U
A	S	R	T	Y	H	F	A	E	R	V	U	I	B	L

- Baltimore

Boston

Chicago

Dallas

Denver
- Houston

Las Vegas

Los Angeles

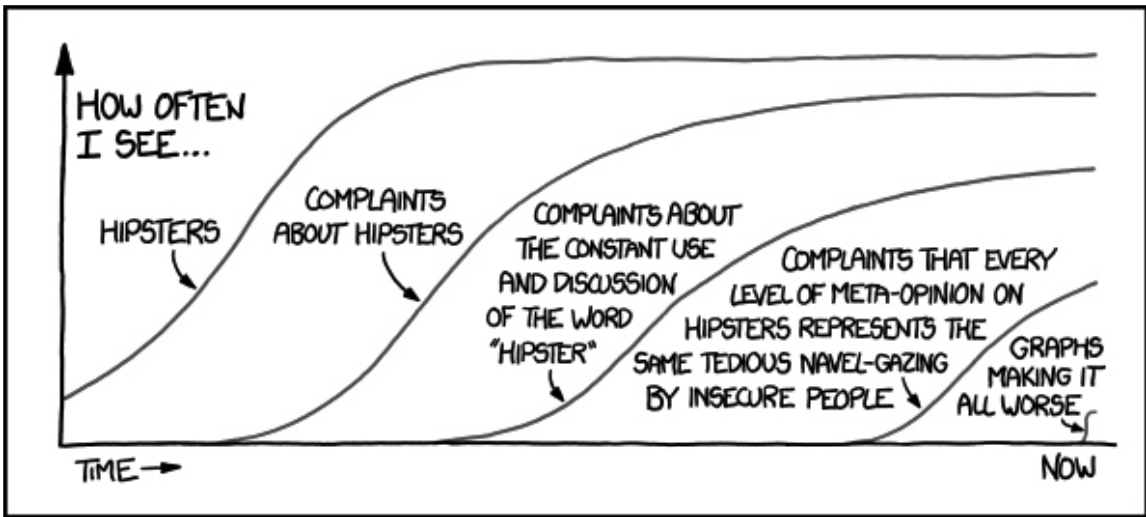
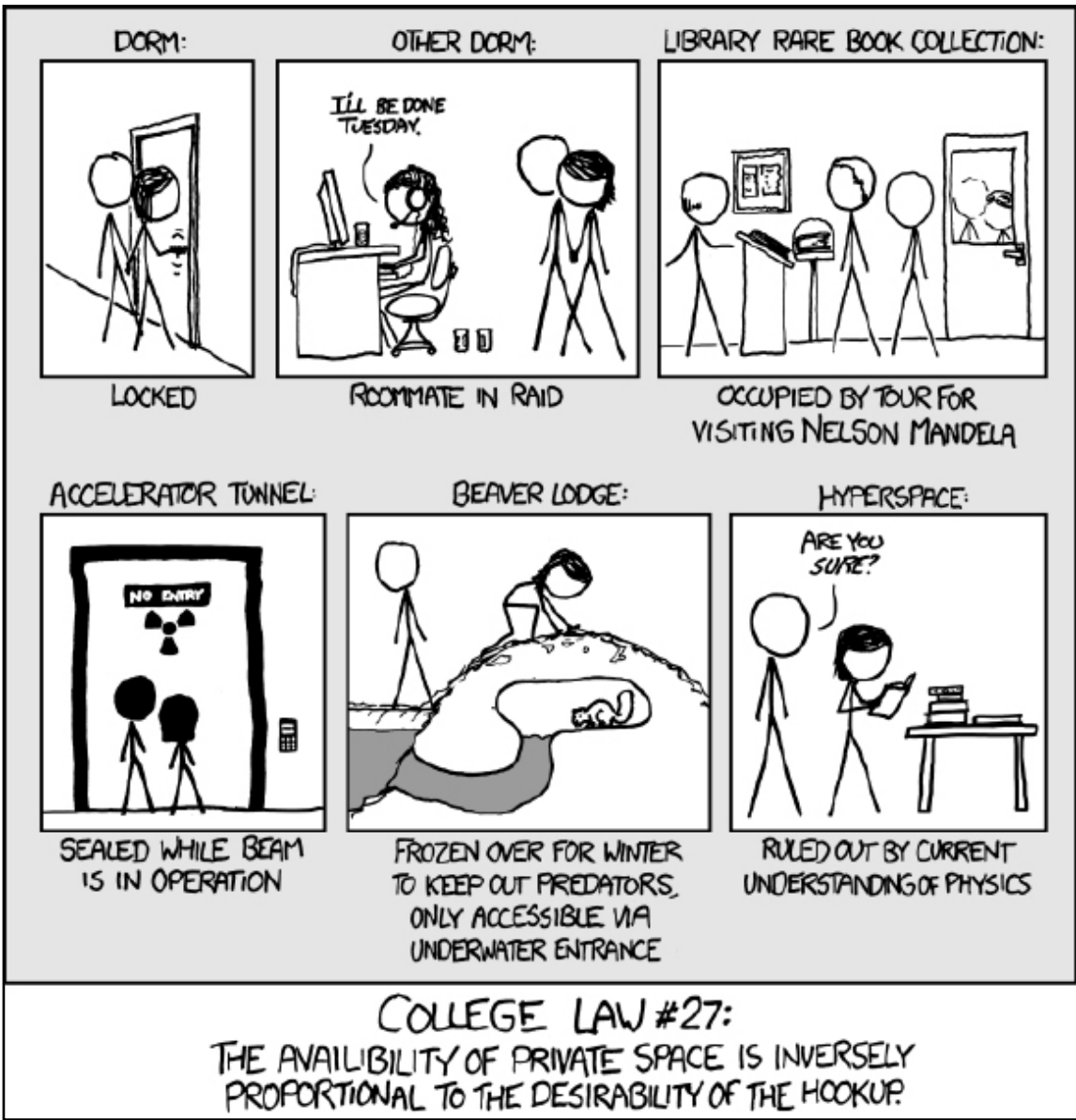
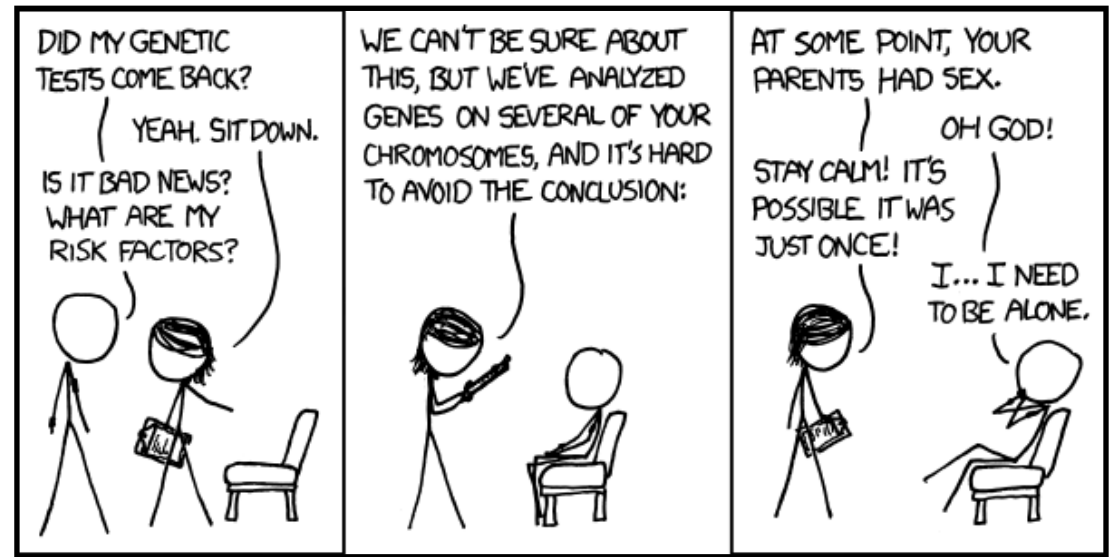
New York City

Philadelphia
- Phoenix

San Diego

San Jose

Seattle





# Sports

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

## FOOTBALL

# Eighth season victory claimed from Dutchmen



Brookelyn Parslow/The Polytechnic

**THE RENSSELAER ENGINEERS DEFEATED the Dutchmen in a game this past weekend, scoring them a spot in the NCAA playoffs, and bringing their record to 4-1. (file photo)**

**Jacob Kaplan**  
Senior Reporter

RENSSELAER WON 20-14 AGAINST Union College away on Saturday in the Dutchmen Shoes Trophy Game. The victory puts the Engineers at 8-2 overall for the season and 4-1 in the league, guaranteeing them a spot in the NCAA playoffs. This is the fifth year in a

row that the Engineers have won the Dutchman Shoes.

The Engineers took the lead early with a 24-yard field goal from kicker Christian Kapp '18 during the first drive of the game. Defensive lineman Amaechi Konkwo '21 recovered a fumble on the Dutchmen's next possession, forcing a turnover 16 yards out. Quarterback George Marinopoulos '21 found run-

ning back Rob Law '19 two yards out for the first touchdown of the game, followed by a kick by Kapp, ending the first quarter at 10-0.

The Dutchmen narrowed the score gap in the second quarter, making a touchdown after gaining 62 yards on seven plays. The Engineers maintained their lead with another field goal by Kapp, but the Dutchmen pulled ahead in

the last minutes of the quarter with a 63-yard pass to the end zone. The game went into half-time at 13-14.

Both teams tried gaining the upper hand, but no drives were successful in the third quarter. Finally, Rensselaer made 62 yards on eight plays with Marinopoulos making a pass to wide receiver Keaton Ackermann '19 for their second touchdown, followed by

a kick, putting the score at 20-14. In the last five minutes, Union was not able to make up the lost ground, giving Rensselaer the win.

Rensselaer will be making its fifth total appearance in the NCAA playoffs and their first in ten years. The first game will be away against Wesley College this Saturday. ♦

## SWIMMING AND DIVING

# Undefeated streak continues

**Brookelyn Parslow**  
Senior Reporter

THE ENGINEERS HAD A VICTORIOUS WEEKEND, WITH BOTH swimming and diving teams winning against Vassar College and Hartwick College.

The women's teams for Vassar and Rensselaer went into the meet undefeated, but only RPI improved their perfect record to 5-0 as they beat the Brewers 185-70. The men's team improved to 3-1, with a meet score of 184-92.

Notably, RPI won all four relays and all four diving events. RPI saw especially impressive victories in the 400-yard freestyle relays, with the men's and women's teams touching in 17 and 10 seconds ahead of Vassar, respectively.

On Sunday against Hartwick, the women's team maintained their undefeated streak with a record of 6-0, while the men also improved to 4-1. The women won 14 of their 16 races, with eight different women winning in individual events.

Diving saw strong performances, with Jessica Kugelman '20 winning from both diving boards in both meets. For the men's team, Alex Chused '19 won from the one-meter, and Jesse Rotering '21 won from the three-meter against Vassar. The following day, the two divers flipped positions, with Chused winning from the three-meter and Rotering winning from the one-meter. Weston Brousseau '21 and Rotering also achieved personal bests.

The Liberty League announced its performers for the week of November 7, in which Timothy Ho '21 was named "Rookie of the Week," and Danielle Sauve '18 was named "Swimmer of the Week." This weekend, Sauve won six individual events and a relay, and achieved season-bests in the 100 breast and the 200 individual medley. Kugelman was also named "Diver of the Week" for the third time in her career.

Trevor Maxfield '20 was recognized on the "Honor Roll" after he won the 200 freestyle by almost six seconds,



Brookelyn Parslow/The Polytechnic

**WOMEN'S SWIMMING KEEPS undefeated season.**

the 500 free by more than 16 seconds, the 1000 free by almost 25 seconds, and the 500 free by almost 10 seconds over the two days. He won four of his five events.

Diving Coach Maria Coomaraswamy-Falkenstein expressed that the back-to-back meets are tough. However, she elaborated that they also serve as a "great training tool" as the "qualifying process for the [National Collegiate Athletic Association Championships] requires peak performances in back-to-back meets. Doing this so early in the season is a great way to prepare."

"We had a great weekend and, so far, have had a really good start to the season. I think, as a team right now, we are a very cohesive unit. The freshman class has brought a lot of energy and excitement to the team. They have also meshed very well with all the returners, and that shows in our results in the pool," shared Head Coach Shannon O'Brien. ♦

## MEN'S HOCKEY

# Hockey claims first ECAC league victory

**Maria Kozdroy**  
**Nicholas Luczak**  
Senior Reporters

A CROWD OF OVER THREE THOUSAND WATCHED RPI HOCKEY COMPETE against the 2017 ECAC semi-finalists, the Quinnipiac Bobcats. The Engineers came out on top 5-3, improving their record to 1-3-1 in the ECAC league after Friday night's game.

The Bobcats scored twice in the first five minutes, with defenseman Will Reilly '20 managing a shot on the glove side of Quinnipiac's goalie Keith Petruzzelli with a pass from forward Patrick Polino '20 inside the blue line at 12 minutes in. Reilly had another opportunity one minute later, with a powerful shot on Rensselaer's first power play of the game. Quinnipiac scored their third goal six minutes later at 18:38 off a shot which had RPI goaltender Chase Perry '19 down before the high shot on the Bobcats' fourth power play. RPI finished the first with five shots on goal.

RPI's second goal came from forward Jacob Hayhurst '20 poking at the puck right outside the crease to finally get Petruzzelli down scoring on his blocker side. Two minutes later, RPI tied the game, giving credit for the goal to captain forward Viktor Liljegren '18 after a wrap-around shot rebounded from a Bobcat into the net. With a little over a minute left into the second, captain defenseman Jared Wilson '18 had a stunning play, blocking a shot on his stomach with his stick.

With a tie game for the majority of the third, RPI exploded in the last two minutes of play. Liljegren had a breakaway, giving RPI the lead. Petruzzelli hustled to the bench with the last minute and thirty seconds of play, with Liljegren getting an empty net goal, ending the game 5-3. RPI had 19 shots on goal, to Quinnipiac's 39. Polino earned three points this game, all from assists, and forward Troy York '21 had two assists for himself that night.

After a hard-fought game against the Bobcats, the Engineers went on to play a game the next day against Princeton University, where they lost 2-6. ♦