The Student Senate adjourned its first meeting of the semester after only 24 minutes, having addressed the reduction of the length of Winter Break in the 2018–2019 academic calendar, the few vacant Senate positions, and progress on committee projects.

In his report, Grand Marshall Justin Etzine ’18 said that he discussed the changes to the academic calendar with Provost Prabhat Hajela and Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education Linda S. Schadler—specifically, the reduction of the Winter Break from three weeks to just over two weeks.

The change was made to keep consistency between the semesterly breaks; there will be two weeks of recess between the Fall and Spring semesters, the Spring and Arch semesters, and the Arch and Fall semesters.

Etzine shared that many students have expressed concerns about this change, and that he tends to agree, as “two weeks is not necessarily sufficient to recuperate after the rigor that our semesters have.” He also acknowledged the importance of this time for graduate students preparing for classes.

According to Etzine, the length of the already-approved Winter Break likely cannot be changed. However, he plans to continue these discussions about future academic years.

Etzine announced four vacancies on the Senate, which included the positions of graduate senator, Class of 2021 senator, Greek life senator, and parliamentarian.

Community Relations Committee Chairperson Michael Gardner shared that two calendar-related projects are currently in development, one of which would be used to host Student Life Committee discussions about future academic years. Gardner also reported that they have been working closely with industry. My claim to fame is with the Union, as is Julio’s. Ted actually worked with the administration, [and] extended his tenure at Shirley [Ann Jackson]’s request. So, we kind of bring a composite perspective on this thing.”

A section of their website, referred to as “The Untold Story,” outlines all of their research into Rensselaer’s finances, academic statistics, and governance. It addresses a variety of their concerns, including the decline in alumni donations, the comparatively low endowment size, a decline in enrollment yields, and the “culture of fear” on campus.

Their website also includes a 10-point platform directed at the Board of Trustees, which includes enabling “periodic nominations for, and elections of, at least two Board members by means of an open process conducted by the

The Polytechnic

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

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FEATURES Page 12

Women’s March returns to Albany

Elizabeth Koenig

Turn Your Opinion

Walking the Moon high energy, love worth seeing

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Turning Point denied

Preface to E-BOARD

Senior Reporter

Darby Burns

On Thursday, January 18, people crowded into the Shelnutt Gallery on the third floor of the Union to witness the third discussion of a motion to approve Turning Point USA at Rensselaer as a Union-affiliated club. The motion failed 4-12-2.

The meeting started out with a brief presentation by President of the Union Matthew Curran Kalia ’18. Costa started with a description of the club, saying that they deal primarily with conservative fiscal values. There to present were President Nessa Costa ’20, Treasurer James Rockwell ’19, Social Media Coordinator Daniel Schnoll ’20, and Secretary Curran Kalia ’18. Costa started with a description of the club, saying that they deal primarily with conservative fiscal values.

The presentation ended quickly and the meeting progressed into the question and answer portion. Member-at-Large Brian Mansaku ’19 expressed a concern that he believed a lot of people had, saying that social conservatism and personal opinions often overlap with fiscal opinions. He asked Turning Point how they plan to deal with such an issue. Costa replied she won’t be responding to social questions because Turning Point focuses on fiscal, not social issues.

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GM JUSTIN ETZINE '18 ACKNOWLEDGES CONCERNS OVER CHANGES TO ACADEMIC CALENDAR.

Brookelyn Parslow

Senior Reporter

This weekend, Renew Rensselaer—a collective of alumni led by Bill Criss ’69, Ted Mirza’66, Peter Vanderzee ’70, and John Krob ’78—launched renewrensselaer.org, a website that outlines perceived issues with Rensselaer and a platform geared toward fixing them.

“We have been working behind the scenes for about two years now, trying to affect some changes within the family, so to speak. It was with great reluctance that we decided to go public,” shared Criss.

“We did not want to negatively affect the Institute,” stressed Vanderzee. “We don’t want to surprise people. We want to go forward with a deliberate and logical fashion, tell them what we’re gonna do, and then we do it. It was only after the last meeting with the trustees in New York City and follow-up letters—where we suggested what we thought were painless approaches to better governance—and getting no response, that we decided to, reluctantly, go public.”

Criss expressed that their group “represents a cross section.” He elaborated, “John’s an expert on finance and bank ratings, and has worked for decades on campus with the Greek system. Pete is an entrepreneur, heavily involved with industry. My claim to fame is with the Union, as is Julia’s. Ted actually worked with the administration, [and] extended his tenure at Shirley [Ann Jackson]’s request. So, we kind of bring a composite perspective on this thing.”

A section of their website, referred to as “The Untold Story,” outlines all of their research into Rensselaer’s finances, academic statistics, and governance. It addresses a variety of their concerns, including the decline in alumni donations, the comparatively low endowment size, a decline in enrollment yields, and the “culture of fear” on campus.

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Winter Break shortened due to Arch

Brookelyn Parslow

Senior Reporter

Senior Reporter

Darby Burns

Senior Reporter

Jennifer Wiseman

Senior Reporter

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Class of 2019 Representative David Raab ’19 said that as a national organization, Turning Point has done a few “sketchy” things, citing the influencing of elections and the “Professor Watchlist.” He asked why the club members chose to be affiliated with Turning Point specifically, when the national organization has done things that create a bad environment.

The club said that they had already discussed the watchlist and agreed that they will not be participating. They said they chose Turning Point because it is a uniquely large platform, they agree with the majority of the organization’s values, and the organization provides financial support.

In response to another question from the crowd asking their stance on freedom of speech and how that extends to hate speech, they stated that they believe fully in free speech and are anti-censorship.

Club/ICA Representative Brookelyn Paskow ’20 asked what they will do if they do not become Union-affiliated. She then asked why the club members chose to be affiliated with Turning Point USA.

In response to another question from the crowd asking their stance on freedom of speech and how that extends to hate speech, they stated that they believe fully in free speech and are anti-censorship.

From the Chairman of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Board of Trustees] Arthur Golden, leading into our meeting, informed us of the launch and encouraged us to “get engaged,” read it and pass this along to all the trustees, and also to bring any inaccuracies or misjudgments to their attention.

“We haven’t heard a peep from them. I think it’s clear as can be that we stand by what we publish on that website. It’s the result of many, many, many hours of work on college campuses nationwide.”

When asked if, should they be approved, they would be willing to allow an administrator or faculty member to be a part of their Facebook group to serve as a regulator, they agreed that that would be fine. They also agreed to put a disclaimer on their Facebook group containing the values of the club.

When asked about their funding and how it comes from the national Turning Point organization, they said that it provides things like merchandise and funding if needed. In order for them to receive the funding they would have to apply for it, and it wouldn’t be guaranteed.

After an hour and a half of questioning, a motion to close the queue passed 16-0-2. When discussion moved into the merits of the motion to approve the affiliation of Turning Point USA at RPI, a request was made for a roll call vote, which can be seen at poly.rpi.edu/s/rpiresponse. Markum brought up peer institutions, which he learned about during his time as a senator, and said that of the fifteen he has been involved with, three of them have Turning Point chapters.

Mansaku also reminded the E-Board of the importance of diversity on campus, saying that diversity includes diversity of thought.

After continued discussion, a second motion to close the queue passed 15-2-1. The motion to approve Turning Point USA at RPI as a Union-affiliated club failed 4-12-2.

E-Board: Threats heard outside Shelnutt

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY GATHER to voice concerns over Turning Point’s actions.

TURNING POINT MEMBERS FIELD questions from the E-Board and the community.

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A few minutes later, all interested parties were let back into the room and informed of the E-Board’s decision, besides Turning Point members due to their having prior commitments. Costa sent screenshots to Class of 2018 Representative Erica Lane ’18, which Lane read aloud, of a text conversation she had where she was informed threats heard in the conversations community members had while waiting outside the room for the decision to be made.

The text conversation described threats to “make a display that Nazis aren’t wanted here and hang them like they did the Obama doll. Referring to people who hung and burned Obama doll when elected [sic]” and “people are saying they’re going to NAAACP. I just heard more people saying they’ll ensure you never can get careers if club gets approved [sic].”

Markum later motioned to investigate clubs that have connections to national organizations through an ad hoc committee, and after some discussion the motion passed 13-3-2. A motion to appoint Markum as chair of the committee passed 15-0-3.

Lane, in the last few minutes of the meeting, announced her resignation from her position on E-Board and as chairperson of the Club Operations Committee.

When asked for later comment on the meeting, Costa said, “We definitely figured there would be pushback but what happened at the E-Board meeting was crazy. It just sucks that RPI doesn’t protect our right to free speech and isn’t accepting of all student views. “I plan on reaching out to Turning Point headquarters, Fox News, Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity, and anyone I can that typi- cally cover the BS conservatives deal with on college campuses nationwide.”

Renew: Website detailing platform launched

The inspiration for this came largely from Krob’s knowledge of his wife’s alma mater, Dartmouth College. “The inspiration for this came largely from Krob’s knowledge of his wife’s alma mater, Dartmouth College. “I think that RPI’s values are really strong, and they elected three of their three trustees.”

Krob brought this idea up with former RAA presidents, but “one of them took it to Dr. Jackson and was immediately turned down,” while another “took it to the trustee liaison, and it didn’t get any traction there either.”

He continued, “I felt this would be a great way to stoke enthusiasm for this school among alumni engaged in other student organizations. They don’t see it that way. And when we recommended it to the Chairman of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Board of Trustees] Arthur Golden, leading into our meeting this past April, he shot it down immediately.”

Vanderveer, expanding on the purpose behind their website launch, shared, “None of us really have anything to gain by doing this. I think that’s an important point. We’re essentially all done with our careers by now. We treasure the education that we got. It really was good, and it really started our careers. But when you get to be 30 or 40 years old, your kids have grown up, you’re starting to have grandchildren. I’m gonna have my oldest grandson in college next year. You know, we want RPI to be a place for our grandchildren to go to back to the roots that it had, the greatness that it had, when we were there.”

When Krob told his wife about these issues 15 months ago, she asked him what he wanted to do. “I want to fix RPI,” he responded.

“I think there’s value to the Rensselaer degree,” expressed Mirzak. “If students graduate and the place goes in the tank, what does that say? There’s a stake in it for every single student that’s there right now.”

Before launching the website, Criss sent a letter to Golden informing him of the launch and encouraging him to “get engaged,” read it and pass this along to all the trustees, and also to bring any inaccuracies or misjudgments to their attention.

“We haven’t heard a peep from them. I think it’s clear as can be that we stand by what we publish on that website. It’s the result of many, many, many hours of work on college campuses nationwide.”

The aforementioned five-page response can be found at poly.rpi.edu/s/rpiresponse.
Protest-related judicial inquiries resolved

Brooklyn Parslow
Senior Reporter

On December 12, the judicial cases brought against graduate student Michael Gardner and Bryan Johns ’19 regarding the demonstration held during the capital campaign launch event on October 13 were resolved, and no sanctions were assigned to either student.

“Upon thorough review of all the information provided, the preponderance of the evidence does not support a finding of responsibility for violations of the below Grounds for Disciplinary Action, as originally alleged,” wrote Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students Travis T. Apgar in an email to Gardner that outlined the outcome of his case. The violations mentioned included “trespassing,” “violation of a published Rensselaer/student government policy or regulation,” and “failure to comply.”

According to Apgar, 300 to 375 individual student judicial cases may be opened in any given year. In the past year, there have been 59 inquiries that resulted in no finding of responsibility.

In the email to Gardner, Apgar further expressed, “Although there are no responsible findings, I do want to remind you that the Institute respects your right to free expression. As detailed in the ‘Student Bill of Rights,’ student and student groups are free to examine and discuss all questions of interest to them publically [sic] and privately. Students are also free to support causes by way of peaceful assembly which do not disrupt the normal operation of the Institute.”

“However, that does not mean that students who wish to speak publicly are free to do so at a time, place, and manner of their choosing without regard to Institute rules designed to ensure safety and non-disruption,” he continued.

Apgar further remarked, “In choosing your conduct, you must uphold your personal and social responsibility to conduct yourself in a safe and respectful manner that is in compliance with Institute rules and policies. It is required of you to do so in the future.”

Although Apgar communicated the outcome of Gardner’s case in his hearing officer’s absence, the judgment of the judicial inquiry is ultimately the hearing officer’s decision. The hearing officer may, and often does, consult people throughout a case, including the dean of students and the director of rights, responsibilities, and judicial affairs.

In an email to The Poly, Apgar expressed that “Media and other external influences do not factor into decisions made within the Rensselaer judicial process. Decisions are made based on evidence and thorough consideration of the ideal outcome for the student(s) involved and the community overall. We are committed to student privacy rights, therefore I will not discuss specific judicial cases but, what I can share is, in the Rensselaer judicial process, allegations are not typically dropped. Decisions are based on evidence collected during the judicial inquiry (fact-finding effort). The evidence either supports a finding of responsibility, or not. This will be clearly indicated in the determination communications.”

Gardner, in a comment to The Poly, remarked, “RPI’s integrity is not mended with the conclusion of this judicial process; the fact that this exists mocks their responsibility to honor free speech. My charges were filed due to my views on the school’s precarious financial status and inept governance. “It would seem the administration didn’t choose to stop because an objective analysis revealed my innocence, but forced to concede due to universal condemnation from the student senate, the alumni, the national press, and civil rights advocacy groups,” he added. ☞
Editorial

Growing mentally, physically from theft

My wallet was stolen. It was taken from my pocket during my commute to class and I did nothing to stop it. Although I am forced to admit my inability to react effectively in emergency situations, I also give credit to my thrift. While my friends were waving about their cash—"This is my allowance for the weekend"—and I was scared. As I didn't already have trust issues, I now feel betrayed by my own city. Maybe I shouldn't have gone around saying things like, "I'm tired of this." I don't see myself returning to the City after college. Be careful what you say, kids—next thing you know, someone is after your wallet.

I've been forced to stop and think about my home and the people around me. I've always heard about crime in NYC and how important it is to be cautious. It's a state of mind.

I'm thankful my crime was not violent and all that got hurt was my pride. But now I question my safety. It's easy to disregard warnings people give. As careful as you are, sometimes there isn't anything you can do to prevent the inevitable. I've learned about my mistake thus far. Maybe I was meant to experience this—let it lead me to a new way of thinking about the people around me. Not to mention, it's made me realize how important my family is to me. In that moment, I left straddled. I had no resolve around extending hours, but rather the service itself. I myself would be willing to work these late night hours to make it possible for more students to enjoy the service.

Other improvements to services on campus do not resolve around extending hours, but rather the service itself. For example, students are expected to sign into Roundcube for email, SIS for their schedules, another site to check meal swipes, and the list goes on. Rensselaer should focus on centralizing all of its online services into one complete kiosk site. As many people point out, we are at a tech school.

For SIS, there should be a feature to print or save your transcript in a clean format. Now, whenever I need an unofficial transcript, I have to request it from the registrar. But I have experienced many problems with the system, and more importantly, for students to discuss the system noticing and making changes, while I continue to send follow-up emails to the appropriate people.

First, the library should be open 24/7 all semester—it was not even open 24/7 during finals week this past semester. All students run on different schedules, and with over 7,000 on campus, the school should accommodate all students as best as it can.

The Mueller Center currently experiences the same issue with its hours. Last semester, I highly considered trying to get a good workout in before my 8 am class and before the Mueller Center was closed. Fire alarms for the rest of the day. This is frankly not possible if I’m planning on not going to class sweating. The gym should open at 5 am weekdays and perhaps 8 am on weekends, and close at midnight on weekdays and 10 pm on Friday and Saturday. These are just the hours for the regular school year, and not even during finals week.

During the time when students were most wanting to go to the gym, it was inaccessible. I understand that students staff the gym, with at least one worker at each section. To expand the gym hours to benefit more students, how about hiring an outside employee or raising the student fee?

Another service on campus that should extend its hours is the dining halls. Commensal should be the main dining hub on campus, open from 6 am to midnight, with no closures in between, to accommodate all students’ schedules.

Lastly, on November 30, 2017, there was a strange occurrence. Some TV channels worked in the morning and completely disappeared at night. The students were not warned of this major change until later the following day.

Taking away the only two channels I watched, YES and MSG, has not changed the cost of housing for students. I reached out to Director of Media Services James J. Evans and he mentioned they are looking into adding a satellite to the Union to make the channels available on some televisions in the Union, but this may or may not happen. I have been sharing this point of information with my friends, but it should be addressed to all students. To accommodate these viewers, perhaps RPI should consider subscribing to online streaming services or games on these channels.

Overall, I love what I am learning in my classes, and I am beyond thankful for the education I am able to receive. I have experienced many problems outside of the realm of school: dining hours, shuttle hours, gym hours, the student online services, and the switch in the cable provider. I have named a few everyday problems students experience. I wish to see these suggestions heard and see change to satisfy more students more of the time, hopefully within the next three semesters I am here. I am excited to see what changes RPI is planning to make to have the next generations of students live with these changes for a better student experience at Rensselaer.
Turning Point denied Union club status

DERBY

Hello everyone! Welcome back for the Spring semester! I hope that you all enjoyed your Winter Break and the holiday season. I know that the time at home to see my friends and family was a wonderful break from the daily grind and provided a chance to refresh and recharge as we dive into another semester at RPI. Though I will say that I missed the longer Winter Breaks that we had prior to the Arch, the extended summer will be more than worth it once May rolls around.

The Executive Board spared no time diving into our duties, with this past Thursday being marked by a discussion regarding Turning Point USA, a highly controversial organization nationally. During the meeting, the executive committee of Turning Point USA came before the Executive Board of the Rensselaer Union to petition to become a Rensselaer Union affiliated club. Like all organizations seeking such recognition, TPUSA went through the Executive Board’s outlined policies and procedures, successfully completing all tasks assigned, and garnered quite a large following on campus. Their organization expressed interest in programming that

declared true to their mission statement and offered a space on this campus for individuals who hold conservative values to gather and discuss topics important to them. Turning Point USA, however, is an organization that is rife with politically charged positions at a national level that have proven controversial. The national organization has been linked to many activists who profess controversial views, many of which arguably do not coincide with the viewpoints and values of the Rensselaer community. However, on the collegiate level, and specifically in the group looking to form on campus, Turning Point USA is an organization determined to hold educational programming on conservative fiscal policy, a purpose that does, in fact, align with Rensselaer’s values.

Many members of our community came out in opposition to this group after learning that TPUSA was attempting to form on campus, for various reasons that I am not versed enough to discuss here. However, I can say that the members of our community came out to ask questions of the organization that were critical and asked in a respectful manner. As one might expect, a presentation of such a contentious group led to tensions being high, but the questions themselves were asked respectfully and the members of Turning Point present handled them in an equally respectful and extremely professional manner, conduct which I laud in the face of such high tensions.

Ultimately, the Executive Board found Turning Point USA to violate our policies on discrimination at a national level, and we do not allow chapters on our campuses to be affiliated with national organizations that violate our discrimination clauses. While the educational opportunities that the RPI chapter projected to host provided a clear benefit to campus and provided a platform for intellectual discussions that would go a long way to increase the diversity of thought and opinion on our campus, the national organization of Turning Point does not align with our policies and therefore the local chapter cannot be recognized.

While this is a difficult decision, I would like to recognize all of the hard work that the members of Turning Point put in to starting the organization on campus and invite them to form a new organization on campus, without affiliation to a national organization that violates our policies. Additionally, the Executive Board has decided to launch a committee to investigate all of our clubs with national affiliations to ensure that each and every one of them is being held to the same standards that were exercised on Thursday night. If anyone has any questions regarding the decision of the Executive Board or about the Union as a whole, please feel free to reach out to me at pu@rpi.edu.

The Polytechnic wishes you a successful Spring semester!
WOMEN: Supporters march for equality

From Page 12

The rally was full of positive vibes, colorful posters, and moving speeches. I personally recommend going to any large rally. You can attend in support of almost anything and still be received with open minds and positivity.

With Donald Trump’s approval rating hovering around 39.5 percent, I was surprised there were less people at the rally than the one held last year. All of the friends and family I’ve talked to over the past year—including just a couple people—have expressed disapproval of our current president. Some are more disapproving than others, but none are really approving—but their anger seems to have died down.

You can keep expressing your opinions through marches and through votes. Midterm elections will happen later this year and it’s important that people stand for what they believe in. All 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 33 of the 100 seats in the Senate will be ready for change. If you are unhappy with this presidency, you can get up and do something. Get up and march, go to rallies, make posters, and, most importantly, get out and vote.

Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

Crystal Vejar/The Polytechnic

CCPD SPRING CAREER FAIR

February 7th
10:30 to 3:30 pm
The Armory

See the list of employers, career fair workshops and RSVP on JobLink!

Join the Renew Rensselaer Movement

Go to: renewrensselaer.org

Support Better Governance!
MOON: Unexpected encore well-received

From Page 12

During the show, they made a comment that captured the intense passion they felt when performing. They said that they couldn’t believe that the words that were once in their heads are now in the world, and that they are incredibly grateful to be able to share their music with their fans.

As their set was coming to a close, the energy remained high. The band began to exit the stage, as is the norm preceding an encore. However, what followed was different. Instead of fully exiting, the members gathered in a huddle on the exit and stayed there for a couple minutes. Then they all re-entered the stage fully and just noted that there wasn’t any reason for them to stop then because they wanted to continue playing. Their “encore” concluded with their first real hit single “Anna Sun” and seemingly left all attendees satisfied. The lights came up, and the active energy began to die down and people began to filter out.

Any show with Walk the Moon is almost guaranteed to be one of non-stop high energy, and this was no excuse. If you are ever considering going to a show of theirs in the area, and are on the fence, just go. Even if just for the experience of being in an environment of a shared passion, you will not be disappointed. For anyone who even mildly interested in alternative, or pop-rock, Walk the Moon is a must-see.

Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic
Vibrant characters rejuvenate TV genre

Anahit Hovhannisyan
Senior Reviewer

Set in the ’50s, The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel is a refreshing new comedy television series on Amazon Prime. Released in late November, the show has had glowing reviews all around. With a 96 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes and 8.9 out of 10 stars on IMDB, The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel and lead actress Rachel Brosnahan have won two Golden Globe nominations—best television series (musical or comedy) and best performance by an actress in a television series (musical or comedy).

Witty not only with its alliterated title, The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel offers fast-paced humor with deeply colorful characters. The plot features a newly married Jewish couple, Miriam “Midge” and Joel Maisel, following their life in New York City until their marriage falls apart. Both Midge and Joel are fascinating characters, with goals and desires and overbearing parents still very much involved in their lives. As the marriage falls apart, the show focuses on Midge as she discovers her talent for stand-up comedy and faces obstacles as an aspiring “comedienne.” Rachel Brosnahan does a beautiful job portraying Midge as an ambitious, meticulous, and empowered individual. Not to mention, her comedy acts are hilarious and they instill a feeling of empathy from the audience—one that makes us want her to succeed.

The costume, hair, and makeup are what truly differentiate this show. There is no other TV show set in the ’50s out now, and frankly, it’s about time. The clothing is fabulous, and all of the characters are perfectly done up. The designers create new colorful pieces for Midge to wear in every episode. Not to mention, her hair and makeup are flawless. It’s refreshing to see a different style from time to time, and this show takes no shortcuts.

Fortunately, The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel was signed for two seasons, although its recent overhanging production schedule was cut to one. The show is expected to return to Amazon Prime for its second season in December.

BROSNAHAN PERFORMS an early scene as Midge.

Unique film enchants

Serge Piskun
Senior Reviewer

Over Winter Break, I met up with a few of my friends to watch a movie I knew pretty much nothing about, I’m talking of course, about the new Guillermo Del Toro film, The Shape of Water. After seeing the trailer, I was only more confused; it seemed all over the place with no discernable storyline. However, upon finishing the film, I was left with a sense of awe, as it was a beautiful, though unorthodox, tale of adventure. As expected, this article contains spoilers, and I’d strongly recommend watching the movie before reading this.

The film takes place in 1960s-era America, when the women’s rights movement was just starting to kick off, and the US Armed Forces were heavily male-dominated. It also was the time frame of the anti-communist craze, where anyone suspected of being a Russian spy was taken away, never to be seen again. The Shape of Water addresses both issues in an indirect way. The story is set around Eliza Esposito, a mute cleaning lady working at a government laboratory. The audience follows her as she goes about her seemingly mundane life: she cooks eggs, drops off food for her neighbor, rides the bus to work, and cleans the lab. One day, however, her routine is shattered. A new specimen is brought to the lab—a humanoid fish-monster that Colonel Richard Strickland claims is some sort of Amazonian river god that he discovered. Strickland, in very stereotypical 60s machismo, tortures the creature and receives orders to vivisect it in order to prevent Soviet spies from stealing it for themselves. Meanwhile, Eliza, who has grown attached to the creature, helps it escape. This is where the movie takes its biggest risk of all. The budding love story between Eliza and the river being is fully fleshed out, and somehow, becomes more than just a shock factor. It’s treated like nothing is out of the ordinary, like this is just a normal occurrence and everything is fine. I won’t spoil any more, because on the off-chance that you haven’t seen The Shape of Water yet, I hope you’re enticed enough to give it a try.

Besides the unusual storyline, the characters are among the most diverse group of people I’ve seen in a movie. Eliza, the mute cleaning lady, is complemented by the loud and unafraid-to-voice-her-opinion Zelda, another cleaning lady at the base. Eliza’s neighbor and best friend, Giles, is a starving artist struggling with his own closeted homosexuality and desire for companionship. Strickland is the perfect villain: he is both menacing and cold-hearted, but his back story is wonderfully fleshed out to the point where you can sympathize with him. The whole subplot with Russian spies is also done cleanly, creating a level of intrigue and then cleaning up all loose ends.

All in all, this was a wonderful movie. I enjoyed the unconventional storyline, and how every scene in The Shape of Water was a setup to the next one; I never felt like it was dull or stale. If nothing else convinces you, then I invite you to take a look at the Wikipedia article for this movie’s accolades. You’ll find it to be as long, if not longer, than the movie’s own Wikipedia page.

Health Profession School Applicants

✓ Are you planning to apply for admission to professional health schools (medicine, dentistry, veterinary, physicians’ assistants, and others) for entry in Fall 2019?

✓ Are you planning to take the MCAT, DAT, or other tests for health professional school applications?

✓ Do you need advice, a source of recommendations, or guidance in choosing schools?

✓ Come and work with the PreHealth Professions Committee. Our job is to facilitate your application.

✓ Registration information is available from Patricia Tedesco at: tedesp@rpi.edu OR in the Advising & Learning Assistance Center.

✓ Deadline for submission of registration material is Friday, March 2, 2018.

✓ For complete program details go to:

http://info.rpi.edu/advising-learning-assistance/advising/#PreMedicalandPreHealthAdvising
Events

**WEDNESDAY**

January 24

**Rensselaer Lally School of Management Finance Area Seminar**

Pittsburgh 4114; 3:30–5 pm

The Rensselaer Lally School of Management will host a finance area seminar, “Plant Behavior and Equal Pay: The Effect on Female Employment, Capital Investments, and Productivity, A Difference-in-Discontinuity Design,” with Raffi Garcia.

**Physics Colloquium**

CII 3051; 4–5 pm

The Department of Physics, Applied Physics, and Astronomy hosts Boleslaw K. Szymanski. The lecture is titled “Failures, Dynamics, Evolution, and Control in the Global Risk Network.”

**Material Advantage Annual Undergraduate Research Fair**

Polymer Center Atrium; 4–5:30 pm

Material Advantage is hosting its Annual Undergraduate Research Fair this Spring semester with hopes to increase the awareness of Materials Science among the RPI community. This casual event aims to allow undergraduate students from all majors to learn about the research opportunities available in the Materials Science Department.

**SATURDAY**

January 27

**Troy Compost seeks Volunteers**

Campus-wide; 8 am–2 pm

Troy Compost has been organizing a number of big composting initiatives in Troy, such as the Farmer’s Market foodscraps collection, a project that diverts food waste from landfills to get composted at local farms instead. Volunteering with us is a 2-hour, low-intensity, educational gig that does good work for a community organization, local farms, and the Troy waste stream. You don’t have to be an expert on compost to help out.

**Reception for Alumni and Fans Prior to the Mayor’s Cup Men’s Hockey Game**

Albany Times Union Center; 4:30–6:00 pm

All RPI hockey fans are invited to a reception prior to the Mayor’s Cup men’s hockey game vs. Union at the Albany Times Union Center. Complimentary snacks and a cash bar will be available. Reception is from 4:30-6 pm. Face-off for the women’s game is at 3 pm, and puck drop for the men is 6 pm. There is no charge to attend, but registration is required.

**TUESDAY**

January 30

**Rensselaer Lally School of Management Co-Term Information Session**

Folsom Library Fischbach Room; 1–2 pm

Join us as the Rensselaer Lally School of Management hosts a Co-Term Program Information Session for current Rensselaer students. Earn your business graduate degree in your fifth year. At this event you can learn more about the Lally MBA and our five M.S. graduate business programs options.

**Foundry-RPI**

J Building; 6–7:30 pm

Foundry-RPI is a working group where entrepreneurs, designers, builders and developers can meet weekly, get peer feedback, and execute ideas in an environment in which it is both expected that you are trying to do awesome things and it is okay to fail. Dinner is provided at 6 and the meeting starts at 6:30.

**MONDAY**

January 29

**Last day for students to change sections, add or put courses on audit**

**Moe Monday’s**

Moe’s Southwest; all day

**Civil and Env. Eng. Spring Speaker**

Dr. Andrea Surovek

JEC 3117; 2–3 pm

Structural systems and forms have developed in the last century to meet new challenges, with significant advances in minimizing material usage, withstanding extreme loads and reaching new constructible heights...

**THURSDAY**

January 25

**Study Abroad Information Session**

Rensselaer Union; 12:15–1:15 pm

The Office of International Programs will be holding an information session for students who wish to learn more about the available international programs and opportunities. Students who are interested in an International Experience during the Semester Away of the Arch, or students who plan to study abroad during the 2018–2019 academic year are encouraged to attend.

**Are you interested in covering events you are passionate about? Have you seen a movie lately? Do you know what a book is? Email features@poly.rpi.edu!**
DILBERT

by Scott Adams

DO YOU KNOW THE
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
DATA ENCAPSULATION
AND INHERITANCE
POLYMORPHISM?

NO.

THEN HOW
CAN YOU
MANAGE SOMEONE
WHO DOES?

I HATE
HAVING A
MISERABLE
MANAGER.

I DON'T SEE A
POINT.

DO YOU KNOW THE
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
MANAGING AND
BULLYING?

NO.

PROBLEM,
SOLVED.

IT WILL TAKE FOUR
WEEKS TO BUILD THE
APP. UNLESS THERE
ARE UNFORESEEN
PROBLEMS.

ONE HUNDRED
PERCENT OF
THE PROBLEMS?

HOW?

THEN
WHAT'S
THE
POINT
OF
EATING A
COMPLAINT
DATE?

I WAS
HOPEING
TO MAKE
YOU
STOP
TALKING.

YOU DIDN'T
WORK.

WE'VE HAD SEVEN
HUNDRED COMPLAINTS
ABOUT SEXUAL
HARASSMENT IN THE
PAST MONTH.

WOMEN AT OUR
COMPANY ARE
BEING TOLD TO
REPORT EVERY
INTERACTION.

WEREN'T ALL OF
THOSE COMPLAINTS
AGAINST OUR CEO?

PEOPLE MIS-
INTERPRET HIS
WARMTH.

Hey, Alice. Let me give you a
shoulder rub. In the name of team
spirit.

AHAAGHH!!!

Click.

No. I plan to add
requirements as
you build the app.
Until you have no
hope of success and
you fantasize about
strangling me.

Are these user
specifications
complete?

No.

I don't want
your honest opinion on
my plan. Don't hold
back.

Also, I want your
honest opinion on
my plan. Don't hold
back.

WASH YOUR HANDS.

Nobody wants your germs.

Wash your hands.

PILE HIGHER & DEEPER

by Matthew Broussard

MONDAY PUNDAY

by Matthew Broussard

Nobody wants your germs.
Wash your hands.
TOP TEN LIST

Flu Prevention Tips
10. Practice good health habits
9. Never speak to anyone in person
8. Wear socks and sandals
7. Give high fives
6. Sneak sips of other people’s drinks
5. Nice, extended hugs
4. Ask for extra strength flu shots
3. Wash hands for at most 2 seconds
2. Double up on condoms
1. Never leave your room

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

glitter
glue
laptop
pens
notebooks
scissors
highlighters
paper
pencils
backpack
calculator
crayons

CRYPTOQUOTE
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

Zrzfg kzdn tj vprpkhdmpty
idc obpkm ty mxz odvq tj d
apcntdcokz itfqjtvz, obm p
vdy tykg udqz ct udgy.
-Ypdyazf Idkkdvz

Earn your MBA with the Lally School in your 5th year!
Join us as the Rensselaer Lally School of Management hosts Information Sessions for current Rensselaer students. At this event, you can learn more about the Lally MBA and the five M.S. graduate business programs, and how you can earn your business graduate degree in your fifth year!

Eng/Sci+MBA Info Sessions:
Freshmen only
1/30, 12-1 pm, Fischbach Room, Library
1/31, 10-11 am, RU 3511, Union
2/27, 12-1 pm, RU 3511, Union
2/28, 10-11 am, RU 3511, Union
To register, visit: apply.rpi.edu/register/mba

Co-Term Info Sessions:
1/30, 1-2 pm, Fischbach Rm, Library
1/31, 11-12 pm, RU 3511, Union
2/27, 1-2 pm, RU 3511, Union
2/28, 11-12 pm, RU 3511, Union
To register, visit: apply.rpi.edu/register/coterm

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Wednesday, January 24, 2018
Comics • 11
Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885

XKCD by Randall Munroe

THE TORNADO’S THREE MILES WEST, MOVING NORTH EAST AT 15 MPH.
GO RIGHT; GET AHEAD OF IT.

OKAY, WE’RE IN RANGE! STOP HERE!

BANG

BIG ONE! MUST BE AN F-3!
I’M NOT SURE WE’RE DOING THIS RIGHT.
HELP ME MOUNT IT ON THE HOOD.

AFTER HIS 1860 LOSS TO LINCOLN, STEPHEN DOUGLAS PARDONED DEPRIVING SKULLS ENTERED A RAPID DECLINE.

ON WED., JULY 7, 1862, ARMY ENGINEERS IN HUNTING周四 LEWIS CARPENTER IN ST. LOUIS AGAINST THE CONFEDERATED STATES OF AMERICA. POWERED BY LIBERTY, AND DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL.

WE SEARCHED OCEANS OF THESE FLOOR TILES FOR SIGNALS FOR THE ANCESTRAL TRAILS. IF THERE WERE INTELLIGENT LIFE UP THERE, WE HOPED THE MESSAGE WOULD SUFFICE.

THE WORLD’S FIRST ANT COLONY TO ACHIEVE SENTIENCE CALLS OFF THE SEARCH FOR US.

School Supplies

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

backpack
books
calculator
crayons
glitter

laptop
pens
notebooks
scissors
highlighters
paper
pencils

ENG/SCI/ENG+MBA Info Sessions:
Freshmen only
1/30, 12-1 pm, Fischbach Room, Library
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To register, visit: apply.rpi.edu/register/coterm
Women’s March continues in Albany
Participants express concern with current presidency, treatment of women

On Saturday, I attended the Women’s March in Albany, one of many marches to pop up around the country in remembrance of the Women’s March in Washington, D.C. last year. It was attended by thousands of people, and not just women. The rally was dominated by women protesting the treatment of women—with a good amount of male supporters—but it wasn’t exclusively feminist marchers. Many were there to express their concerns over many problems. Some of the common themes included support for the LGBT+ community, support for Dreamers and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, support for refugees and immigrants, general concern over the state of our democracy, and even support for animal rights and veganism.

CONCERT REVIEW
Walk the Moon maintains alternative, pop-rock sound while promoting album