

Inside

Comics 4
 Editorial/Opinion 8
 Events 3
 Features 7

Connect

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

FEATURES Page 7



Call Me By Your Name thoroughly enjoyed

FEATURES Page 12



Indoor farmers market an option

EDITORIAL Page 8

Brookelyn Parslow Tips for those who want to go vegan

Tyler Carney Too much media is a good problem

ADMINISTRATION

Eastin shares contentious email



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

GRAIG EASTIN (LEFT) AND SHIRLEY ANN JACKSON JOIN in singing the alma mater during the protest outside EMPAC in April 2016. (file photo)

Brookelyn Parslow
 Senior Reporter

“OK, I’LL SAY IT. SHAME ON YOU,” wrote Professor and Director of the Bioinformatics Program Chris Bystroff, in an email directly addressing alumni who have stopped donating to Rensselaer since President Shirley Ann Jackson assumed her position.

Bystroff sent the original email to Rensselaer faculty on January 22 at 11:38 am with the subject “a letter in response to the front-page [sic] TU article of Jan 21.” It was then forwarded to the Rensselaer Alumni Association by Vice President for Institute Advancement Graig R. Eastin at 4:07 pm with the subject “Important to get the truth out there.”

On January 29, Eastin sent a formatted version of the email to an alumni mailing list, with the subject “Albany Times Union article response.”

According to Vice President for Strategic Communications and External Relations Richie Hunter, “emails to alumni have varying approval requirements,” but “all official emails to alumni

are ultimately approved by Institute Advancement.”

According to Bystroff, he was not aware that Eastin was going to send his email to alumni, and “Eastin has since apologized by email.”

In his email, Bystroff expresses that the “50 percent drop in alumni participation” and the accompanying situation “needs to be analyzed from all sides.” He refers to a “blame-game,” in which Jackson is being called an “autocrat.”

“Did you notice that the downturn in alumni donations began immediately after Dr. Jackson’s installation? Not a sign of a well-reasoned response. Did she become an autocrat on day one? How long does it take to establish a reputation as a non-transparent autocrat?”

“What she did become on day one was the first woman of color who was elevated to the presidency of a major university. I can’t help thinking that if she were white, male (and maybe a bit taller!), she would not be so quickly dismissed as an autocrat,” he explains.

He later continues, “Could it be that the residual racism and sexism (no [sic] to mention heightism) that

sits in the backs of the minds of the white male majority of our alumni makes it just a bit easier to see Dr Jackson as outside of her league, ... [sic] out of her place?”

Bystroff then moves on to the subject of a “rift” between the faculty and the administration and its need to be fixed, “because alumni are citing it as the reason for not donating.” When Bystroff was the chair of the Faculty Senate, he suggested apologizing and having both parties “own up to [their] part in the rift.”

According to Bystroff, the “needlessly aggressive act” of having a “skewed questionnaire and a vote of no confidence in the President (which failed),” warrants an apology.

The vote of no confidence was held in April of 2006, and it failed with a vote of 149-155-16.

At the time of publication, Eastin had not responded to a request for comment.

When asked if Rensselaer believes that sexism and racism surrounding Jackson is behind the decline in the alumni donation rate, Hunter replied with the following:

“No, as we have repeatedly said in many ways, philanthropic giving

is a very personal choice. People decide to give, or not give, for personal reasons. There is no one reason why Rensselaer alumni choose to give or not give. Rensselaer is extremely appreciative of the generosity of our alumni who do give and support the university. That is one of the reasons the current campaign has multiple goals—to meet our needs and to appeal to as many alumni as possible.

“The recently launched comprehensive giving campaign is designed to position Rensselaer for its third century of leadership in research and education, and to further improve our ability to educate our students and prepare them to succeed in and contribute to the world after Rensselaer. The campaign is specifically focused on student financial aid, faculty support, and campus enhancements because we view those three areas as our greatest needs and the greatest benefit to our students. We hope our alumni will agree with the goals of the campaign and the worthiness of these goals and choose to support Rensselaer, the students, and the campaign to whatever extent they are able.” ♦

SENATE

Undergrad, grad activity fee: \$394, \$342

Nicholas Luczak
 Senior Reporter

THE STUDENT SENATE CONVENED WEDNESDAY TO discuss and vote on the Fiscal Year 2019 Union Activity Fee and class dues, among other things.

The usual committee and officer reports were skipped in order to make time for the important discussion of the new Activity Fee. President of the Union Matthew Rand ’19 presented a summary of the budget allotted to Union activities and then related this information to an updated Activity Fee. The total budget for the Union

totaled about \$2.8 million. The activity fee increased by 1.7 percent from Fiscal Year 2018—the maximum allowable increase under rules set forth by the Rensselaer administration. That total budget was further delineated into different expenses, with administrative budgeting accounting for \$2 million; \$769,625 allotted for clubs; \$12,030 for multicultural and diversity programs; \$21,810 for student activities and special events; and \$20,422 for events during the Arch program.

Changes in the budget from last year include an increase in money allotted to the administrative office for raises and a new position, a de-

crease in expected revenue from the Clubhouse Pub, and an increase in hourly wages for students as prescribed by New York State. The Executive Board felt that it would be useful to have a second Business Coordinator supporting clubs in the Union, which translated to a \$47,000 increase in the administrative budget.

The Pub’s contribution to total revenue had historically been expected to make \$50,000, when it realistically only ever brought in about \$12,000, according to Rand; this difference was reflected in

Senate: Fee increased by 1.7 percent

From **Page 1**

the 2019 budget. And finally—due to the mandatory increase in minimum wages in New York State—student staffing wages went from \$10.40 to \$11.10 per hour.

A major part of budgeting is how costs are calculated for undergraduate and graduate students. Most expenses are split by enrollment statistics; however, some more expensive and specific expenses like the intramural ice hockey team, the Archer Center, and other general clubs are determined by participation statistics. Using this information, approximately 86.3 percent of the budget was covered by undergraduate students, and 13.7 percent was covered by graduate students.

After all of these statistics and considerations were explained to the Senate, the new Activity Fee recommendation was presented. For undergraduate students, a \$380



Brookelyn Parslow/The Polytechnic

VICE GRAND MARSHAL ELLIE MEES '18 TEMPORARILY ASSUMES the duties of the chair of the Senate, allowing Grand Marshal Justin Etzine '18 to freely address the Senate.



Brookelyn Parslow/The Polytechnic

GRADUATE SENATOR ANTHONY BISHOP ARGUES in favor of no increase in the graduate student Activity Fee.

Activity Fee and a \$13.50 class dues fee were proposed, resulting in a total of \$393.50 for the new fiscal year. The graduate student Activity Fee was \$330 with a \$12 class dues fee, resulting in a total of \$342.

Graduate Senator Anthony Bishop presented the Graduate Council's issues with the budget, following Rand's presentation. Their main point was that graduate student participation in the Union is lower than the enrollment-base split that was used to determine the proposed Activity Fee. They claimed that the budget assumes a graduate student participation rate of around 9.6 percent while the actual rate of participation was around seven percent. According to Bishop, his would suggest that the graduate students are overpaying by about 33 percent, which would translate to a \$15 difference in their Activity Fee. They claimed that a difference in graduate and undergraduate student culture meant that graduate students were unable to have as much of an involvement in Union activities.

Following Bishop's presentation and a lengthy discussion, the sense of the Senate was that these concerns over the fee were brought up too late, as the lengthy process of budgeting had commenced early in the 2017 school year. A change of such magnitude would result in a potentially lengthy delay in the finalization of the Union Annual Report. Although members of the Executive Board said that it would be virtually impossible to quickly change the budget at this time for the coming fiscal year, they did say that they would be more than happy to discuss these concerns will be discussed for the 2020 fiscal year.

The Student Senate ultimately voted to approve the proposed Activity Fee with a vote of 17-3-0.

The Senate then voted to approve Samantha Wong '20 as the new Panhellenic Senator unanimously. Then the Senate moved to approve Executive Board appointments: Ryan Delaney '21 as a club ICA representative and Cohen Davis '21 as member at large. Both of these appointments were approved unanimously. ♦

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Live streaming discussed, no decision made

Darby Burns
Senior Reporter

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING THAT took place on January 25 consisted mainly of the approval of proposals by the Interplanetary Society and Ultimate Frisbee, as well as approval of a new club training policy.

The Interplanetary Society started things off by asking for money to go toward their competition fees and snacks at the events and workshops that they host throughout the year. The E-Board decided to go with their standard policy of subsidizing 40 percent, which came out to be, \$170 for the club. The motion to approve the request passed 17-0-0.

The next club to come before the E-Board was Ultimate Frisbee, presented by Chris Duffy '20. Duffy came asking for money to pay their coach, pending his approval by the Division of Human Resources. Money has already been allocated toward a coach in the next fiscal year's budget, but that won't take effect for some time. Duffy explained that the

money to pay for the coach would come from an increase in club dues for the semester. When questioned, he told the E-Board that he had let club members know what was being proposed and asked anyone struggling to pay the increased amount to come to him for help.

When members of the E-Board asked about how the coach's salary was determined for this semester, Duffy explained that Ultimate Frisbee is asking for exactly half of what has been approved for the next fiscal year. He also told the Board that while the coach hasn't been allowed to work with the players directly, because he is still in the process of being approved by HR, he has been creating workouts for the team and sending them over.

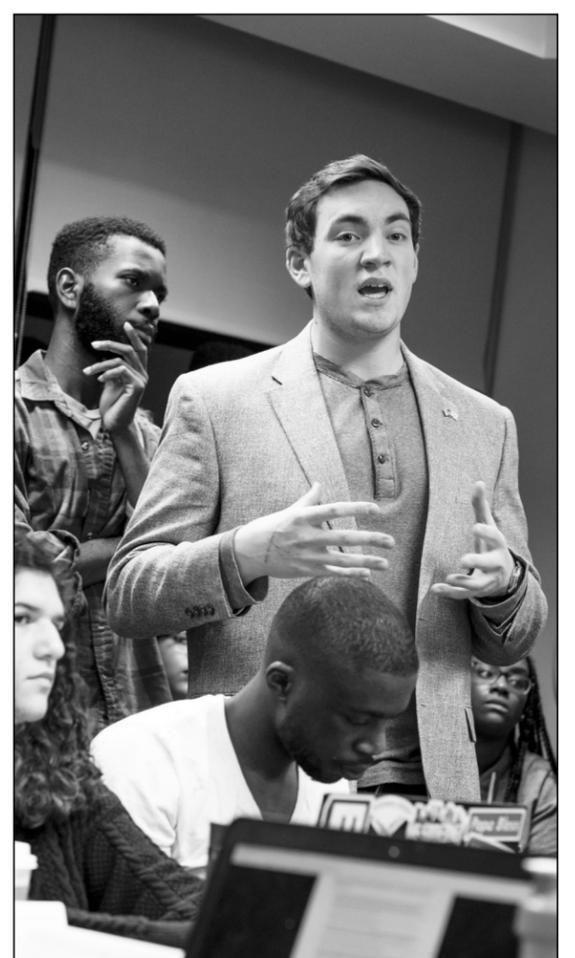
After discussion, the motion was amended to include specifics on how much money was to be approved. The motion passed 15-0-2.

After Ultimate Frisbee, a motion came before the board to approve a new club training policy. The policy consisted mostly of current policies condensed into one place, with the inclusion of a

new bystander intervention training section that, according to the document, "is mandated by New York State law for all officers of student organizations recognized or affiliated with institutions, as well as those seeking institute recognition or affiliation." The motion passed 17-0-0.

At the very end of the meeting, a discussion was sparked regarding the potential to livestream E-Board meetings. Those in favor brought up that it would help to get the E-Board and its members more recognition as well as potentially getting people more interested and involved. Those opposed to the idea worried that it would be very difficult given how often the E-Board deals with sensitive financial information and closes its meetings. They also mentioned concerns that, currently, when the merits of a motion are being discussed, all interested parties are asked to leave the room, which would be logistically difficult if the meetings were streamed online.

The Executive Board meets on Thursdays at 8 pm in the Shelnutt Gallery. ♦



Nicholas Luczak/The Polytechnic

THE E-BOARD DISCUSSES the benefits and drawbacks of streaming its meetings publicly online . (file photo)

Corrections

On page 1 of the January 24 issue of *The Polytechnic*, in the article titled "Turning Point denied," a quote was attributed to Member-at-Large Brian Mansaku '19.

In actuality, the quote should have been attributed to Bryan Johns '19.

Events

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

WEDNESDAY

January 31

Safe Ride Launch & Vehicle Reveal

15th Street; 10 am–12 pm

Safe Ride at Rensselaer will launch on January 29. This program provides a free evening/late-night service to get students to campus and home safely. Two Honda Fit EV cars are the vehicles for the program. Come see the Safe Ride Cars and learn more about the program.

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.

Wellness Wednesday at the Mueller Center

Mueller Center; 2–4 pm

Resolutions and Goals: how to stick to them! FREE Zumba, snacks, trivia, art therapy, and chair massages!

African Students Association

Rensselaer Union; 6–7 pm

The African Students Association will be hosting their first General Body Meeting in Rensselaer Union 3202 from 6pm - 7pm. Please come with your friends as well. There will be free food and drinks.

Co-Term Information Session

Rensselaer Union; 11 am–12 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.

SATURDAY

February 3

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 foodscrap 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.

Elevator Pitch Competition

CBIS Auditorium; 9 am–2 pm

MANE Undergrads will compete for \$1000, \$750, and \$500 in cash prizes with 3D printed trophies, presented by Naval Nuclear Laboratory (NNL). Lunch catered by Thunder Mountain. Event includes workshop by Archer Center and networking with engineering and hiring staff from NNL.

Black History Month Festival featuring the Zuzu African Acrobats

Rensselaer Union; 12–2 pm

Enjoy a great family event with the students of the Black Student Alliance as they present a cultural festival of club performances with the finale by the acclaimed Zuzu African Acrobats, stars of the 2011 America's Got Talent show. What better way to spend the afternoon with friends, family, children of all ages.

SUNDAY

February 4

Resident Student Association Annual Super Bowl Party

DCC 308; 5–10 pm

Come to the annual RSA Super Bowl party and enjoy halftime trivia, wings, pizza, chips, and drinks and watch it on the big screen in DCC 308!

TUESDAY

February 6

Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology Spring Seminars

Biotech Building; 4–5 pm

Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology Spring Seminar Series Presents: Professor Daniele Fabris, The RNA Institute, University at Albany. All are welcome.

Eship.1 Problem Pitch Competition

J Building; 5–6 pm

Identifying problems is the first step towards being a change-maker. Before you can fix something, you need to understand the issue. With a chance to win one of several \$500 prizes, this competition will allow you to choose an "unsolvable" problem and explain why it has not been solved yet.

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.

GCF Weekly Study - Colossians

Library Conference Room; 6–7:30 pm

Join us for dinner and socializing followed by a study and discussion. With the new semester we are starting a new study of the book of Colossians. While the studies will be linked, each week should be fairly self contained, so come when you can.

Safe Ride Launch & Vehicle Reveal

15th Street; 6–8 pm

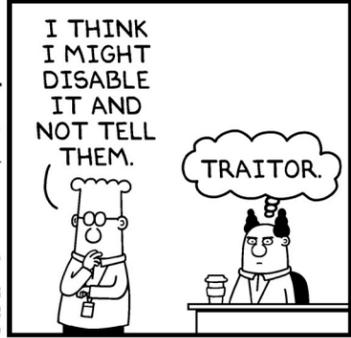
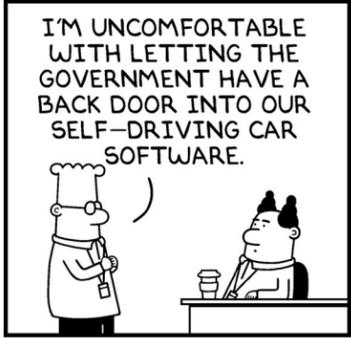
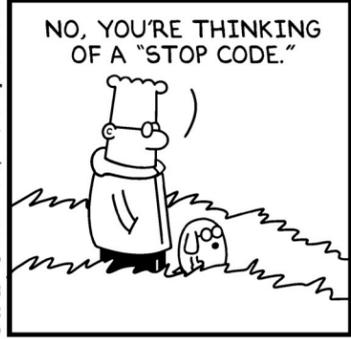
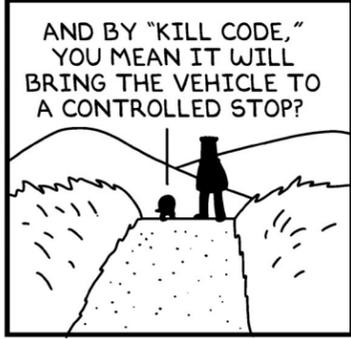
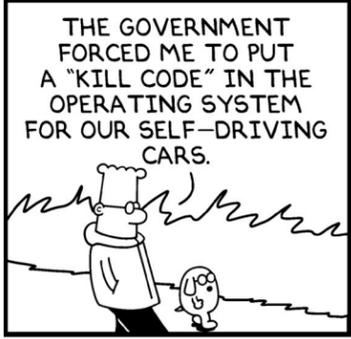
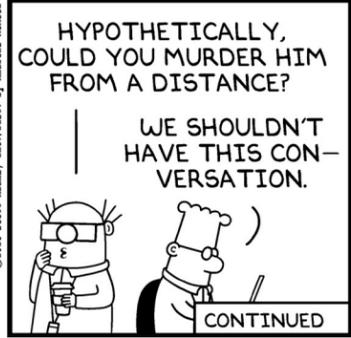
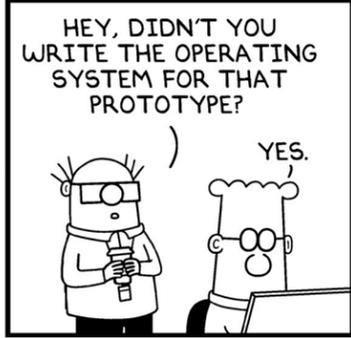
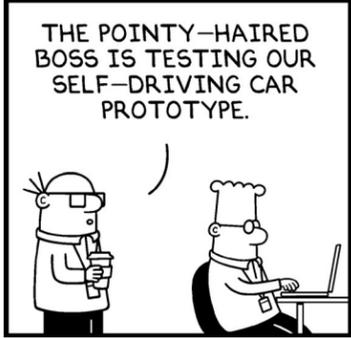
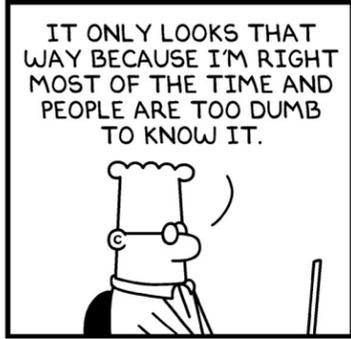
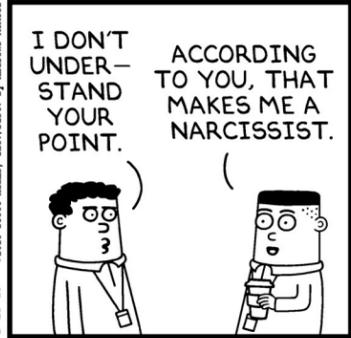
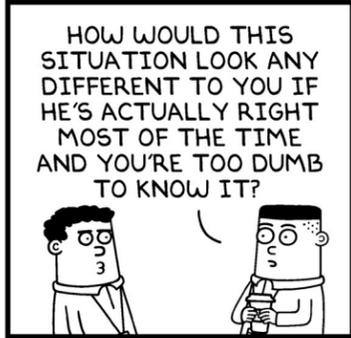
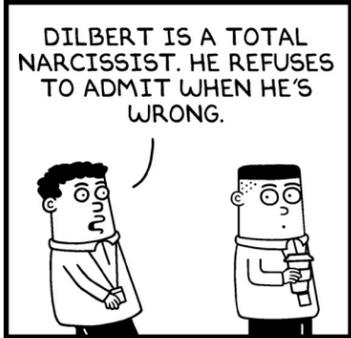
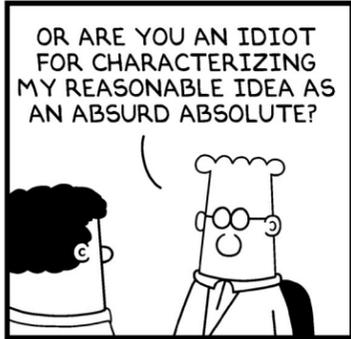
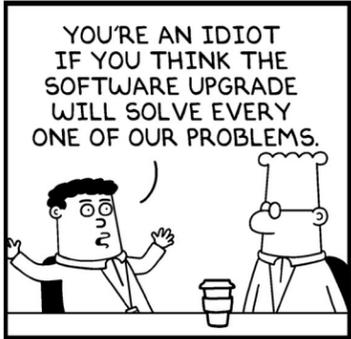
Safe Ride at Rensselaer will launch on January 29. This program provides a free evening/late-night service to get students to campus and home safely. Two Honda Fit EV cars are the vehicles for the program. Come see the Safe Ride Cars and learn more about the program.

Editor in Chief Brookelyn Parslow will have office hours from 2-3 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays in our office, RU 3418.

DILBERT

by Scott Adams

TOP TEN LIST



Resolutions You Have Already Broken

10. Getting ahead on homework
9. Saving money
8. Going to the gym
7. Dieting
6. Not skipping classes
5. Not talking to your ex
4. Drinking less
3. Trying
2. Read more
1. Get a friend

WORDFIND by Tyler Carney

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

People of The Poly

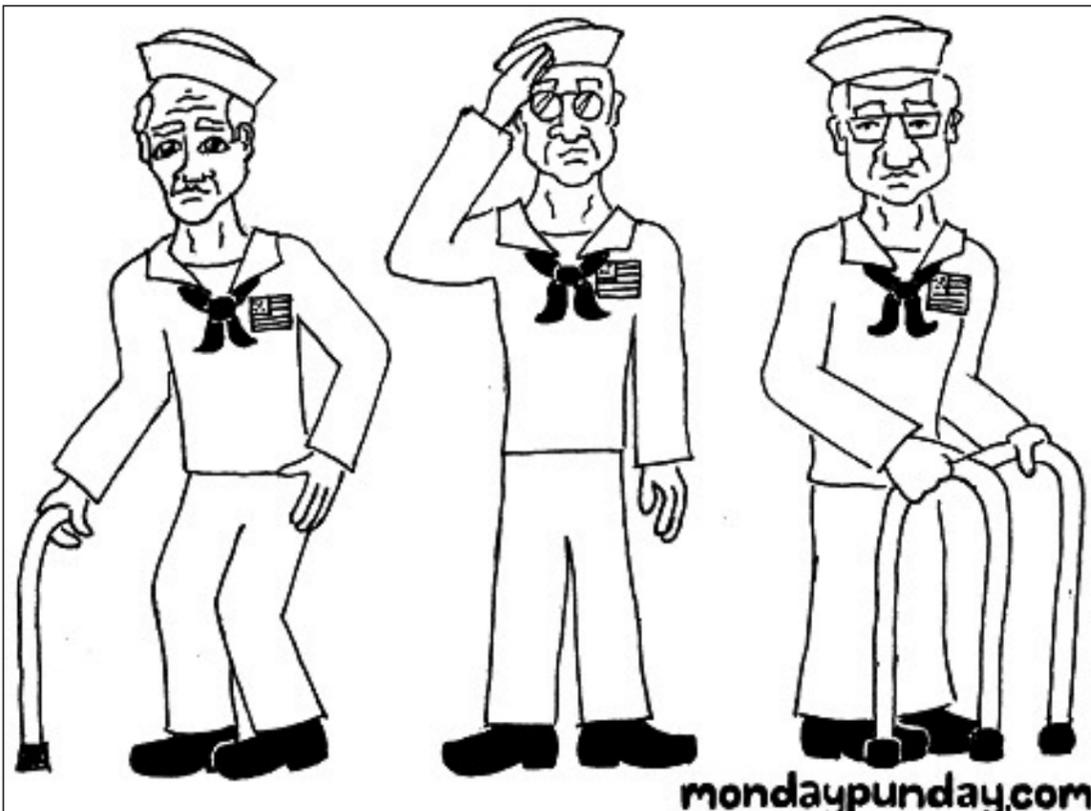
S K D C X A N A H I T M Z Y U
 A B R E A N A X D Y A A B J K
 I I R X A N Z C N E W R D S K
 Z K J O N A T H A N A I I O C
 K E P X O Z I O N D M A W X A
 I W D X Z K R S A I Q P K N M
 S T E V E S E J O S E P H C N
 C O D N N X X L T P O E X S S
 H G Z N M E C R Y S T A L S D
 W O N D E R F U L N O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

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|--------|
| Ana | Crystal | Maria | Serge |
| Anahit | Darby | Nicholas | Sidney |
| Anna | Jonathan | Peter | Tyler |
| Brookelyn | Joseph | Rex | |

RSA is hosting a Super Bowl party with wings and pizza in DCC 308 this Sunday at 5 pm! Go support your team!

MONDAY PUNDAY

by Matthew Broussard



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

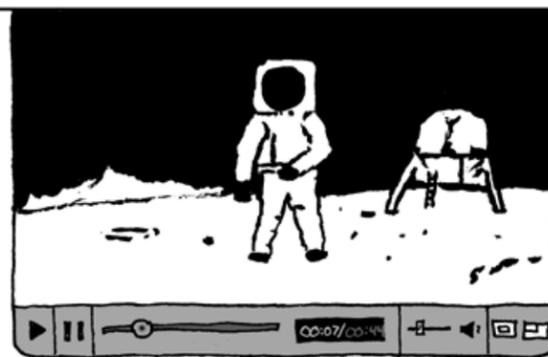
Z uxflpwpuxno pemn zwtny, "Zon gn xrqze anmzrwn gn bzvn zc cxn wczow, po yp gn bzvn zc cxnq anmzrwn gn zon xrqze?" Upfeclnww, onzllj... "Dp cxn wczow bzvn azmt?" epg cxzcv z irnwcfcpe.

Join us Tuesday in RU3418 if you are interested in *The Poly*.

XKCD

by Randall Munroe

THE INTERNET HAS ALWAYS HAD LOUD DUMB PEOPLE, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING QUITE AS BAD AS THE PEOPLE WHO COMMENT ON YOUTUBE VIDEOS.



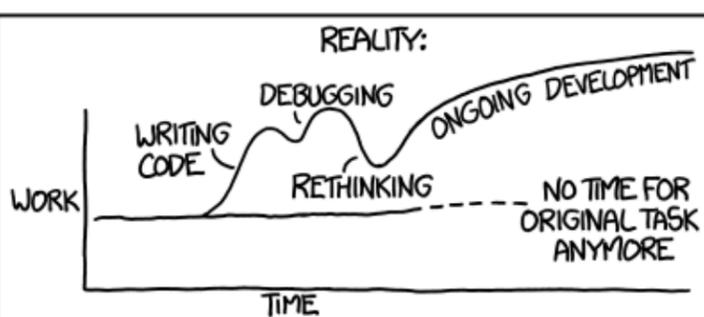
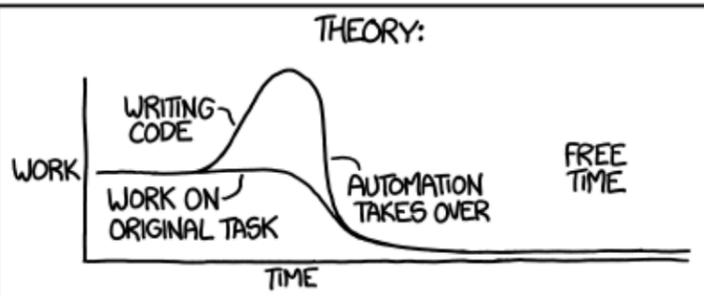
COMMENTS & RESPONSES

- ROCKKIR (48 MINUTES AGO)
THIS IS SO OBVIOUSLY FAKED ITS UNBELIEVABLE, WHY R PEOPLE SO GULLIBLE??? MORONS
(REPLY)(MARK AS SPAM)
- BIGMIKE133 (35 MINUTES AGO)
I'VE SEEN THE SPACE SHUTTLE ASS HOLE IT DEFINETLY LANDED ON THE MOON DO SOME RESEARCH...
(REPLY)(MARK AS SPAM)
- GUNPESTOLMAN (22 MINUTES AGO)
IF IT WAS REAL WHY IS THEIR GRAVITY? AMERICANS R FUCKEN SHEEP
(REPLY)(MARK AS SPAM)
- CRACKMONKEY74 (17 MINUTES AGO)
U DONT THINK WE WENT TO THE MOON WHY NOT TELL LOUIS ARMSTRONG TO HIS FACE
(REPLY)(MARK AS SPAM)
- SIMPLEPLAN2009 (5 MINUTES AGO)
IT WAS A SOUNDSTAGE ON MARS
(REPLY)(MARK AS SPAM)

AWAITING THE JUDGES' RULING AT THE PIRATE BAY TRIAL:



"I SPEND A LOT OF TIME ON THIS TASK. I SHOULD WRITE A PROGRAM AUTOMATING IT!"



SEE THE FULL LIST OF EMPLOYERS,
 CAREER FAIR WORKSHOPS AND
 RSVP ON JOBLINK! DOWNLOAD THE
 CAREERFAIR+ APP!

CCPD SPRING CAREER FAIR

FEBRUARY 7TH
 10:30 TO 3:30 PM
 THE ARMORY



Rensselaer

CENTER FOR CAREER AND
 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RPI.EDU/DEPT/CDC | (518) 276-6234 | @RPI_CCPD

MOVIE REVIEW

Film displays exceptional storyline, score



Courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics

THE FILM'S LEADS, HAMMER AND CHALAMET, SHOWCASE their incredible chemistry with memorable, honest performances.

Tanner Vargas

A Special to The Poly

SET IN THE COUNTRYSIDE OF A SUN-DRENCHED 1983 Italy, Luca Guadagnino's masterwork film, *Call Me By Your Name*, is a revelation in cinematography and acting, rich in tone and tenderness. It's rightfully garnered awards season buzz, landing four Oscar nods from Best Actor to Best Picture. Although the techniques are mastered, the raw performances of its leads transcend any preconception of what a love-and-coming-of-age-story really is.

17-year old Elio Perlman, played by Timothée Chalamet, spends his summer

days lazily transcribing music and swimming in the sun, proving himself somewhat of a reserved but precocious prodigy alongside his father, played by Michael Stuhlbarg, a cultural professor conducting research at their 17th-century Italian Villa.

When the tall and handsome Oliver, played by Armie Hammer, arrives as a graduate student assisting Mr. Perlman in research for the summer, the worlds of Elio and Oliver begin to draw inescapably closer. This is where the film so easily could fall into a predictable rhythm, but doesn't—Guadagnino and Chalamet make sure of it.

Elio is at once knowledgeable and insightful, exhibiting a complex worldview

well beyond his years (no matter how much he denies it). Chalamet's nuanced performance lifts the character to new heights, each emotion exhibited in a daring performance of action expression. You can feel each of his struggles so viscerally; the tug and pull between what his mind wants and heart needs is illustrated in every minute detail. The star-making performance really calls for more than one watch. Such an honest portrait is mirrored in the supporting role of Oliver, the two's chemistry so untouchably palpable with each passing scene that you begin to dread the end of the film as much as they do the end of the summer.

Guadagnino's tactics are very direct

here—in nearly every scene, there's an instance of setting awareness. Melodic church bells chiming in the distance as Elio wanders the apricot orchards; cars rumbling along the streets of town as Elio and Oliver nearly yell at each other over the noise. By the end of the film, there's such a vivid grasp on what it was like to live and love in Italy, it's as if you were there yourself.

The soundtrack continues the incredible run of quality, helmed by three offerings of Sufjan Stevens (who himself was nominated for Best Original Song at the upcoming Academy Awards for "Mystery of Love"). The tender, and at times melancholy, instrumentals pair with a vibrant lyricism that calls back to the emotive Italy the film earnestly presents. It's a seamless musical encapsulation of the complications that a love like Elio and Oliver's faces, Stevens' vocals working to devastating effect with each new listen.

The director carefully and fully presents the characters as destined, flawed, and honest all at once, focusing on the incredible performances by Chalamet and Hammer as it clumsily develops into a transcendent narrative that rejoices and strains with a passion that still resonates today. It's done so well and honestly that it has the rare power to change the life of some of its viewers.

Call Me By Your Name affectionately captures what it means to wholeheartedly desire every part of another person, and the reality of what such a love means beyond the two who find themselves wrapped up in it. The final scenes of the film pack such raw, unflinching performances by Chalamet and Stuhlbarg, it's practically impossible to forget what this film has to say, much less how they say it. ♦

Learn About Values Driven Leadership

First Sergeant
Matt Eversmann
(Ret.)

*Hero of the Epic Film:
Black Hawk Down
& the Battle of Mogadishu*

FEB 06 | 8 p.m.
EMPAC, RPI



**Please attend this free event from the
Pinewoods Educational Foundation /
Sigma Chi Leadership Series**

Editorial

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

EDITOR'S CORNER

Poly given subsidy for Fiscal Year 2019

IF YOU FOUND ME A YEAR AND A HALF AGO AND told me I would eventually be the editor in chief of *The Polytechnic*, I would have almost certainly said, "What is an editor in chief?" Looking back, the amount that I've learned from the paper alone is unbelievable to me. I owe so much of that to the wonderful, knowledgeable people I've met through *The Poly* and late nights perusing the depths of our website.

I have never been one for introductions, so I'll make it quick. For those of you who don't know me, I'm Brookelyn, and I was elected to the position of editor in chief in December. I have an update regarding *The Poly*, so that seemed like a good place to start.

This fall, *The Polytechnic* submitted a budget to the Union Executive Board. Unlike previous years, we requested and were approved for a subsidy. It felt wrong not to share this, as we have long prided ourselves

on being financially independent.

I took on the role of advertising director at the end of the summer. After looking into our budget, I realized that we had been budgeting for best-case scenarios for the past few years; this meant we expected to earn around \$37,000 in advertising income per year. This income was supposed to cover everything—the cost of printing the paper, our office phone, subscriptions, ink, and other miscellaneous expenses.

To be frank, I could not expect myself to bring in that much money. So, we decided to ask for all the necessities of operations to be subsidized, aside from the printing of the paper. It's simple—if the income from ads doesn't cover the cost of the paper for that week, we don't print. Any extra income from ads will first go towards covering all of our other expenses, but if that extra income isn't there, we won't go into debt.

The subsidy is there if we need it. Hopefully we won't, but I thought it would be better to be realistic than hopeful.

Additionally, I wouldn't be true to myself as advertising director if I didn't include this: right now, the advertising department is just me. Soliciting advertisements is a straightforward, yet very rewarding, job. The more people we have working on getting ads, the better. I would be happy to talk to you—or any of your business major friends looking for experience—about how it works and how to get involved. If you're interested, feel free to shoot an email to ads@poly.rpi.edu.

Also, if you're reading this and you've advertised with us, thank you. You are the reason that we can put out a physical paper

(almost) every week, and I am beyond appreciative of your support.

With all of that being said, you've made it to the "join *The Poly!*" pitch. If you are interested in anything with the paper—whether it's writing, photography, layout, business, or systems—and you want to get involved, send an email to poly@rpi.edu. We'd be happy to have you.

If you have any concerns or questions about what we do, feel free to direct them to poly@rpi.edu. You can also stop by during my office hours, which are on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2–3 pm in our office, RU 3418. Feel free to pop in for a chat! I could probably talk about *The Poly* for the rest of my life. ♦



Brookelyn Parslow
Editor in Chief

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

Too much entertainment

MY PARENTS RAISED ME TO BE FRUGAL, ESPECIALLY when it comes to entertainment. I went to the movies twice during my K–12 education, and I still feel bad about paying \$10 or more to watch a movie in the theaters. Another example is video games: I would only get a couple of new ones every year, so I played through them repeatedly—I have played through the original *Halo* campaigns too many times to count. I have always been in the position of having too much time and not enough entertainment, but that has changed during my past three and a half years at RPI.

Not having enough time is no longer the issue—the issue is that I have too much entertainment. I get four new games every month through Xbox Live Gold. Now, not all of them are ones that I would play, but there are interesting games that I got months ago and still have yet to touch. I buy more games during sales, even though I have games from the last sale that I still have not played, and then there is the issue of me going back to just play *Overwatch* instead of trying to get through all my other games. It is not that I enjoy *Overwatch* so much so that it is the only thing I want to play; it

is that I feel like it is easier to just play a couple of matches than start a large, time-intensive game like *Assassin's Creed*.

Another large source of entertainment is TV and movies. I have five TV series and seven movies on my list of things to watch, with even more coming on the horizon. The frustrating thing is that sometimes, I am bored and I just do not have any desire to watch anything on my list, but when I am busy, that is all I want to do. Having to force myself to watch something is not enjoyable, so I end up just refreshing Reddit too much and getting nothing accomplished.

I used to read two hours every day on the bus ride to and from school. I tore through books, but I have not read more than five during college.

Books are the most time-intensive form of entertainment, in my opinion. Two hours for a movie versus a week for a book makes the inefficiency of reading, given my backlog of other entertainment, seem not worth it. I am somewhat sad that I have not read that much, so I am going to make it my goal to read on the bus trips when I go skiing.

Overall, it is a good problem to have. ♦



Tyler Carney
Senior Managing Editor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

You reap what you sow

Mr. Eastin,

I have read the letter from Dr. Bystroff, which you considered worthy of bringing to the attention of alumni of the Institute.

I am sure that you are under intense pressure to turn Rensselaer's fundraising decline around. But surely you cannot expect to achieve this by shaming your potential donors with a diatribe that alumni responded to online as "close-minded," "alienating," "embarrassing," and "unprofessional."

Is it a surprise to you that my peers, who took on rising debt as our tuition climbed from \$34,900 to \$36,950 to \$38,100 to \$39,600, feel that we have already dug to the bottoms of our pockets to pay Dr. Jackson's multimillion dollar salary? When the administration decided to require sophomores to live in student housing with exorbitant meal plans, were we not to feel like piggy banks being

shaken out to buy her a new \$3.5 million mansion? Shame on us for withholding our generosity.

It is shocking to you that students who watched their professors disenfranchised under this president became alumni who have reservations about her leadership. Today, we watch the same administration seize control of the Rensselaer Union with one hand, and hold out the other for donations from the alumni who poured time and energy into the vibrancy of that community. Shame on us for our insubordination.

Some years ago, Dr. Jackson gave audience at a "Pizza with the President" event, one of her biannual Q&A sessions with the student body. A member of one of the performing arts organizations took the mic. Why, she asked, did the president not attend their recent performance?

One could almost hear the damage-control machinery grind-

ing into gear behind Dr. Jackson's expression. "I didn't know about it. I'm very busy. As much as I'd like to, I can't attend every performance. Contact my office and we will try to fit it into my schedule." Unmistakably upset by the excuses, the student replied, "We send your office tickets to every show. You've never gone to any of them."

I don't know if she ever attended one of the shows. But I do know that later, Dr. Jackson stopped attending her own Q&A session, and eventually, so did her cabinet, because "they 'devolved' [into] little issues that are beneath the president's attention" (*The Poly*, April 5, 2017). This, to me, has always illustrated the administration's regard for the students of the Institute. In turn, this administration is deserving of the alumni's regard for its fundraising efforts.

Ryan Govostes
CSCI '11

the polytechnic

Editor in Chief

Brookelyn Parslow

poly@rpi.edu

Editorial Board

Senior Managing Editor	Tyler Carney	poly@rpi.edu
Contributing Editor	Crystal Vejar	poly@rpi.edu
Contributing Editor	Nicholas Luczak	poly@rpi.edu
News Editor	Darby Burns	news@poly.rpi.edu
Business Manager	Peter Begonja	business@poly.rpi.edu
de facto Features Editor	Anahit Hovhannisyan	features@poly.rpi.edu
de facto Sports Editor	Brookelyn Parslow	sports@poly.rpi.edu
de facto Editorial/Opinion Editor	Crystal Vejar	edop@poly.rpi.edu
Copy Editor	Serge Piskun	copy@poly.rpi.edu
Photography Editor	Sidney Kochman	photo@poly.rpi.edu
de facto Web Editor	Sidney Kochman	web@poly.rpi.edu
Associate Features Editor	Anahit Hovhannisyan	features@poly.rpi.edu
Associate Features Editor	Anna Koenig	features@poly.rpi.edu
Associate Photography Editor	Jonathan Caicedo	photo@poly.rpi.edu

Coordinators

Advertising Director	Brookelyn Parslow	ads@poly.rpi.edu
Graphics Director	Ana Wishnoff	graphics@poly.rpi.edu
Web Director	Sidney Kochman	systems@poly.rpi.edu
Systems Director	Sidney Kochman	systems@poly.rpi.edu
Systems Coordinator	Jonathan Caicedo	systems@poly.rpi.edu
Systems Coordinator	Joseph Lyon	systems@poly.rpi.edu
Copy Coordinator	Maria Kozdroj	copy@poly.rpi.edu
Operations Coordinator	Rex Hu	copy@poly.rpi.edu

Production Staff: Bisseem Gill, David Raab

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.

Congratulations to our former hockey player Milos Bubela '16, who will be representing Slovakia in the 2018 Winter Olympics!

TOP HAT

Disheartened by RPI's lack of understanding

ON MONDAY NIGHT, RPI ALUMNI FROM around the world opened their inboxes to find a forwarded email accusing them of racism, sexism, and heightism for discontinuing support of their alma mater during Dr. Jackson's tenure as president. I would be remiss not to address this as I interact and work with alumni on a regular basis and recognize that current students are future alumni. Importantly, I struggle to comprehend the administration's reasoning behind sending this email, as opposed to tactfully responding to the well-researched concerns and analysis outlined by the Renew Rensselaer alumni group, which was featured in the news article at which the administration's reply was directed.

It was exceptionally unprofessional and destructive for this email to be forwarded to all alumni. The email fails to acknowledge any of the fact-based arguments that have been championed by alumni to support their decisions to reduce or end their donations, which is especially alarm-

ing coming from an institution of higher education that values "Knowledge and Thoroughness" as a core tenet. Additionally, RPI's misguided response appears to demonstrate a basic unwillingness to directly address the very concerns which necessitated their response in the first place.

It was disheartening to hear a professor baselessly equate the entire alumni population to a particular stereotype. I've also observed the diversity of our alumni, students, and faculty through my interactions with them—which occur on a frequent basis—every weekend at hockey games, alumni events, and even at random, both on and off campus. That being said, I understand that we are far from perfect, and there are instances of racism and sexism found on our campus; however, raising concerns on how RPI is managed is not equivalent.

Since this email was sent to alumni, I've received a number of emails from disheartened and appalled alumni regarding it. It pains me to know that these alumni no longer feel appreciated or accepted by the place they once called home. It is a sentiment that seems all too relatable for many students these days—myself, included—and it leaves but one thought echoing in my head: RPI must do better. For students to begin to feel like it is truly "family," the administration needs to genuinely communicate with us, and actively involve us in major decisions before they take place, such as ending the student-run nature of the Union. While I can't speak for alumni, I imagine they don't view "family" as someone who accuses them of being racist, sexist, or heightist, and who disallows them from attending Town Hall Meetings.



Justin Etzine
Grand Marshal

At the end of the day, we're all in this together. I want to personally apologize to any alumni reading this if you felt offended or alienated by the administration's email, as it was not reflective of student opinion. We certainly understand if you opted to withhold donations to your alma mater at any point in recent years. And to everyone reading: I promise that, as the chief representative of the student body, I will continue working to address concerns of the RPI community, as they affect us all, and I will continue my attempts to communicate with the administration. In the meantime, I would appreciate hearing your thoughts at gm@rpi.edu.

Justin Etzine
152nd Grand Marshal

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Renew Rensselaer based in facts, analysis

TO THE RPI COMMUNITY:

On Monday evening, RPI's Vice President for Institute Advancement Graig Eastin sent an email to all RPI alumni in response to a recent *Albany Times Union* article about Renew Rensselaer. The body of Eastin's email contained a forwarded open letter from Professor Chris Bystroff to the RPI faculty, dated January 22, 2018.

Bystroff's letter followed in the wake of the administration's five page response to the launch of the Renew Rensselaer website, which was provided to the *Times Union*, and subsequently posted to its website. Sadly, both the administration's five page response and Bystroff's letter missed the mark, assuming they were intended to provide reasoned responses to Renew Rensselaer's research findings, detailed in *The Untold Story*, and recommendations for improvement, outlined in our Platform. We continue to invite a diligent assessment of the facts we presented and steps for improvement.

As any good researcher knows, correlation does not equal causation. We provided data on our website for alumni giving rates at other schools that have also declined significantly, just not quite as much as at RPI. In his letter, Bystroff directed readers toward an article from *Inside Philanthropy* which argued quite convincingly that there are many societal shifts and changes influencing both alumni giving rates and the amount of dollars donated. Nonetheless, we have been in contact with many alumni who are interested in giving to the Institute, if they were to see evidence that the Board and the administration would implement necessary changes. Our overwhelming sense is that some straightforward and basic improvements to governance practices, as stated in the platform on our website, would greatly help to boost alumni financial support for RPI.

After reading the aforementioned article, one can conclude that the steep drop in RPI's donor participation rate appears quite normal. Then, viewing the dollar amount of gifts and bequests to RPI over time, the question becomes: "why aren't more 'mega-donors' coming forward?" We suggest that former senior advancement officers from RPI know the answer; they were the sources for last July's article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Unfortunately, they felt compelled to remain anonymous as sources for that article. We believe the answer is clear: the approach that has been taken by the administration toward encouraging alumni giving, for many years now, has not been well received.

Several of our members met with RPI's board chairman and other trustees on two occasions to both voice our concerns and offer constructive suggestions for improvements to governance based upon the research we conducted. Our offers of help were declined, and our concerns rebuffed. Yet we attempted to keep things in the "family," as Bystroff suggested in his letter. We made a sincere effort to bring about necessary change, but were met with stiff resistance. So those of us at Renew Rensselaer began to reach out to fellow alumni, knowing they would listen and be perfectly capable of sorting fact from fiction to guide their personal decisions. If some RPI alumni decide to withhold participation in giving, there is a message they are sending that apparently is not being considered by the administration and board. And, if there is any shame to assign, as suggested by Bystroff, it lies with those who are finding it difficult to assess the facts presented on Renew Rensselaer's website, renewrenselaer.org.

On the whole, Bystroff's letter appears to be a mostly emotional response; surely disappointing to most alumni who live

in a world where facts guide personal decisions. To be perfectly clear, Renew Rensselaer's website was never intended to stir an emotional response, but rather, to present facts we uncovered that we believe are relevant to all RPI alumni.

It should be abundantly clear that the founders of Renew Rensselaer and the hundreds of alumni who support its platform are not interested in engaging in an emotional skirmish, nor do they have an ulterior motive. To subtly suggest otherwise is a tactic that will ultimately backfire as more and more alumni review the Renew Rensselaer website and realize there are no ad hominem attacks or even suggestions of such. Renew Rensselaer is committed to helping the Institute regain its former stature as RPI enters its third century. Our goal is to unite all of RPI's constituencies and stimulate higher levels of alumni participation and financial support. But for that to happen, RPI's alumni must be treated with respect, and necessary changes in governance must be implemented.

We think it's time for Bystroff and Eastin, and all Board of Trustee members, to diligently review the Renew Rensselaer website and determine for themselves if the facts presented are relevant and worth serious consideration; we are confident they will see what our many alumni supporters have already seen. After that review, perhaps a reasoned dialogue will ensue between Renew Rensselaer and the Board of Trustees regarding the platform we presented. We firmly believe that a dialogue based on facts is an essential first step for RPI to regain its rightful standing as one of this nation's premier technological institutions.

Renew Rensselaer

Poly Snapshots

Photos and interviews by Crystal Vejar

The Question:

What do you do when you need to de-stress?



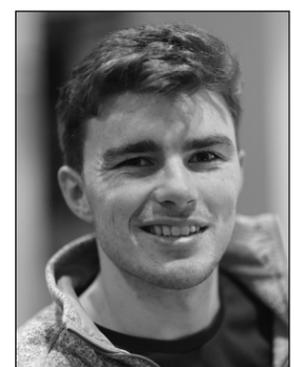
Owen Goff
MATH/CSCI '18
"Netflix and mellow gaming."



Sandasi Chandra
BMED '18
"I like ranting to my friend."



James Stark
BMGT '20
"Take trips to Finland."



Seamus Holland
CIVL '18
"Drink heavily."

EDITOR'S CORNER

Have you been considering going vegan?



Tyler Carney/The Polytechnic

EDITOR IN CHIEF BROOKELYN PARSLOW POSES with one of her favorite vegan snacks, "All Dressed Ruffles."

WITH THE NEW YEAR AND ALL OF THE RESOLUTIONS THAT come along with it, I've had a few friends and family members ask me about going vegan: how to do it, how to enjoy it, and how to make it easy.

(This is not going to be an article about why to go vegan, but more so a little advice for those who are ready to make the transition. There are plenty of people who can explain the merits behind a vegan lifestyle much better than I'll ever be able to. If you're curious, I've

heard that *Earthlings* and *What the Health* are great places to start.)

I want to start by saying that being vegan is not always easy. Just like any major change, it takes some getting used to—and sometimes, it's simply not feasible. Focus more on being practical and doing the best that you can. It is okay if "being practical" means only being vegan for certain meals, only being an at-home vegan, cutting out everything but your favorite cheese, or eating free food regardless of

what's in it. While you're not technically vegan if you do those things, anything is better than nothing.

If you haven't already, do your research. At first, meeting some nutritional needs will require a little extra attention. If you just cut out all of the animal products in your diet and fail to replace the protein, calcium, and other nutrients you only got from those foods, you'll feel terrible and your new vegan diet will be to blame.

I've been vegan for a year and a half, and while making sure I get what I need is now second nature, I definitely struggled for a bit. Even though vitamins D and B12 can be found in a vegan diet, I highly recommend supplementing them to ensure you're getting enough. Also, find a few basic foods and recipes that provide good amounts of protein, calcium, and healthy fats, and make them staples in your life. If you're struggling to find recipes, YouTube's vegan community is a wonderful resource, and a simple search for "high-protein vegan" will get you right on your way.

YouTube is also a great way to get to know imitation products; there is a review for basically every vegan product or brand sold in stores. Look into fake meats and cheeses before you buy them—a lot of them are amazing alternatives that make the transition to a vegan lifestyle so much easier and enjoyable, but many are simply not worth your money.

Imitation products are a great segue to a common misconception: vegan does not always mean healthy. While you can easily be healthy on a vegan diet, don't let a lack of junk foods deter you from making the transition. There are tons of incredible vegan ice creams—my favorite is Haagen Dazs' Chocolate Salted Fudge Truffle—and accidentally vegan products, including Oreos and Hershey's chocolate syrup. Also, with veganism on the rise, many of your favorite restaurants likely have a few options for you. While these products are often a little more expensive, they can make transitioning a much easier process.

All in all, props to you for considering veganism. I can say with absolute certainty that I am much happier as a vegan; I love the food I eat and, while there are still issues with the agricultural industry outside of the animal sector, veganism is much more in line with my morals. If you take anything from this: transition slowly, go easy on yourself, and do your best to make it something that you enjoy. ♦

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Students raise alarm

Concern extends from Union to President's office

TO THE RPI COMMUNITY:

A recent email from Professor Chris Bystroff, responding to the press coverage of Renew Rensselaer, was distributed to the faculty and forwarded to all alumni by Vice President for Institute Advancement Graig Eastin.

In the email, Professor Bystroff dismissed the concerns raised by members of the Rensselaer community and directly accused alumni of racism, sexism, and even heightism.

Students and alumni have asked the Jackson administration to engage in open, honest, and productive dialogue. Instead, the Institute's most recent action was to pass along a message accusing alumni and students of bigotry and discrimination. We are deeply disappointed in the assertions shared in this email. Let us be blunt: race, sex, and height have not been, and are not, factors in any of the concerns raised by Save the Union and our colleagues at Renew Rensselaer. Furthermore, the issues we are raising extend well beyond the Office of the President. Our concerns revolve around the mismanagement of the Institute, the actions taken to usurp control of the Student Union,

the aggressive crackdown on student free speech, and the campus culture of fear. We are deeply concerned about actions taken by multiple members of the administration and the Board of Trustees.

For many years, students and alumni have reached out to the administration and Trustees to address their concerns. Recently, alumni like Renew Rensselaer met with the Board on multiple occasions, only to have their concerns rebuffed. Rather than working with alumni, the administration, by sharing Bystroff's email, has chosen to villainize its alumni donors for voicing their opposition.

Prof. Bystroff was absolutely correct on one point. We should address our concerns within the RPI community. Instead of insulting those who disagree with us, we will continue to welcome, and hope for, the opportunity to engage in useful dialogue with any faculty, staff, alumni, students, administrators, or trustees.

Sincerely,
Save the Union

Racism present, but not in alumni body

TO THE EDITOR OF THE POLYTECHNIC:

It is difficult to imagine an institute of higher learning doing more to alienate its alumni than the recent actions of Vice President for Institute Advancement Graig Eastin. Mr. Eastin forwarded to RPI alumni an editorial letter by faculty member Chris Bystroff that implied that alumni who disagree with some of the decisions made by President Jackson are racist and/or sexist. The forward included a comment from Mr. Eastin that all alumni are "ambassadors of the Institute" and should thus read Mr. Bystroff's diatribe. The email and forwarded polemic together positively ooze with condescension and disdain for RPI's alumni community. Reading them actually gave me a twinge of nostalgia, for it made me remember what it was like to be a student reading communiques from the administration.

I suspect Mr. Eastin and Mr. Bystroff are correct that there is racial and

gender bias afoot. However, I believe that bias is their own. They seek to insulate Dr. Jackson from all criticism of her policies and decisions, merely because she is a woman of color. They apparently do not believe she can handle critique, nor the temporary damage to the ego from being asked to step aside. This is the bigotry of low expectations.

I do not share these low expectations. I, like many alumni, think Dr. Jackson should be held to the highest standards given her sterling resume prior to her selection as president. And if the Board of Trustees ever decides to do its job and hold her to those standards, I am sure she will excel at whatever she chooses to do after she has been shown the door. Hopefully, Mr. Eastin and Mr. Bystroff will follow her.

William G. von Achen
Electrical Engineering '00

MLK misquoted, repercussions severe

Administration should better understand the meaning of King's platform before quoting him

GRAIG AND CHRIS, I TRUST MY PEERS IN THE RENSSELAER community to address many of the baseless points that your email outlined. I wish to address your citation of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It's curious how people love to quote Dr. King in topics they find conducive to keeping the status quo, such as you are doing now with shaming the alumni to increase donations. In his life, Dr. King looked upon the moderates in dismay for not enacting change to the status quo themselves; if they had, years of struggle would have been months. The Rensselaer community has peacefully demonstrated on multiple oc-

casions to speak out against the anti-democratic changes to their home which have stomped out the tradition of co-governance between faculty and administration, and soon, the students as well. Dr. King's teachings were those of love and understanding; we must first realize that everyone is a capable, logical human, and then work towards a common expectation that is based on common morals. One only needs to look at the past actions of the administration, that of treating students like uninformed children and faculty like machines in the knowledge factory whose goal is to churn out standardized profes-

sionals, to realize that the community is stumbling over the very first step that Dr. King outlines. I implore you to spend some time reading Dr. King's code of ethics or to sit in on the ethics course taught by Professor Bill Puka. Maybe then we can start to treat our community as people instead of just capital.

Michael J. Gardner II '17 G '18

ALBUM REVIEW

Artist promotes restorative message through Latin, R&B influenced album



Courtesy of Sony Music Entertainment

CABELLO'S DEBUT ALBUM, CAMILA, RECEIVES overall positive reviews for its distinctive vocals and honest tone.

Pragati Pant
Staff Reviewer

SPLITTING FROM HER FORMER GROUP, FIFTH HARMONY, Camila Cabello emerges with her first solo album, titled *Camila*. While this album falls under the same pop genre as Fifth Harmony, there is something refreshing about what Cabello has to say. Cabello combines emotions of

feeling lost and healing from the past as she unravels her own experiences for the world to hear.

Initially, the album was titled *The Hurting. The Healing. The Loving.*, which would have made the album feel sadder than it really is; this is a fun album that deserves a more confident name. Cabello felt that the title, *Camila* better reflects her current positive outlook as she rediscovers herself.

Although Cabello is better known for her past with Fifth Harmony, she is proving to be a strong solo artist. Cabello has been featured in various singers' songs. "Know No Better," a popular song by Major Lazer, features Cabello, Travis Scott, and Quavo. Additionally, her first solo single, "Crying in the Club," gained much recognition since many were waiting to catch a glimpse of Cabello's solo career. This song flows well into her most recent work, *Camila*, which carries on the strength of girl power as well as of moving on.

"Havana," initially released as a single, received much praise and charted highly. This song provided much anticipation for the album that was yet to come. Throughout the song, Cabello plays out a scenario where she has fallen in love, but knows that it is temporary. With Young Thug as a featured artist and a bouncy backdrop, there is a combination of youthfulness and carefreeness within the song.

Differing from the energetic feel of much of the album, the song "Consequences" shows a more somber side of Cabello. She talks of heartbreak, a recurring theme throughout the album, but does so with only soft piano accompanying her. A song like this highlights Cabello's melodic voice and emphasizes the meaningful lyrics. It also shows that Cabello is versatile with her range of music.

One song that didn't quite leave a strong impression is "Into It." This song describes the typical "girl obsessed with pretty boy" scenario, which diverts from the message of healing Cabello is trying to send through this album. A song like this makes Cabello seem like just another young, careless singer trying to sell her music. Thankfully, the rest of the songs portray her story well.

Altogether, Cabello's debut album is fun and refreshing to listen to. The songs vary from light and flirty to dark and sobering. As an outsider to Cabello's music, I was impressed by her work, and was not expecting to enjoy the songs as much as I did. *Camila* is definitely worth a listen, showcasing Cabello's journey thus far as a singer and foreshadowing what she has to offer. ♦

ALBUMS TO REVISIT



Courtesy of Wild Ones

Mirror Touch
Wild Ones

Recommended by:
Brookelyn Parslow



Courtesy of 604, School Boy, and Interscope Records

Emotion
Carly Rae Jepsen

Recommended by:
Tyler Carney, Rex Hu

 **Rensselaer** | LALLY SCHOOL
OF MANAGEMENT

Earn your MBA or Specialized Master's in your 5th year!

Join us as the Lally School of Management hosts Information Sessions for current Rensselaer students. During this event, you can learn more about Lally's MBA and five specialized M.S. business programs, and how you can earn your Master's degree in your fifth year!

EngMBA + SciMBA Info Sessions:

Freshmen only

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:

All students welcome

2/27, 1-2 pm, RU 3511, Union

2/28, 11-12 pm, RU 3511, Union

To register, visit: apply.rpi.edu/register/coterm

Features

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

CHICKEN NUGGET REVIEW



Crystal Vejar
Senior Reviewer

When I think chicken nuggets, my mind automatically goes to “McDonald’s,” but are these really the best nuggets around, or are they just some of the most popular? This weekend, members of *The Polytechnic* Jonathan Caicedo ’19, Rex Hu ’19, Sidney Kochman ’19, Nicholas Luczak ’20, Joseph Lyon ’20, Serge Piskun ’20, and I decided to do a chicken nugget review to find out which place in town has the best chicken nuggets.

To begin, we first must define our classification of “chicken nugget.” We decided that a qualified chicken nugget must have breading, be under a certain size—disqualifying chicken tenders—and be made out of chicken. By these means, we chose to review McDonald’s, Burger King, Wendy’s, Chicken Joe’s, and Grandma G’s. Below, I will summarize our reviews and give an overall ranking of the five.

Results

Our goal was to rank the nuggets in terms of flavor and quality. Last on our list were McDonald’s nuggets. Overall, its low price didn’t boost it enough to overcome the aftertaste and low quality of chicken. Second to last was Burger King. If you’re looking for a cheap fast food option, Burger King is your way to go! The chicken nuggets were good overall, but had no outstanding qualities to push them up the list. Third on our list was Grandma G’s. This ranking has nothing to do with their quality—they were very high quality nuggets—but rather with our expectation of chicken nuggets. They were very different from our expected traditional chicken nugget taste; if you’re craving a classic nugget, you may want to look at one of the other four options. Second on the list was Wendy’s—offering a very classic and affordable nugget, it earned its spot as second best on our list. Lastly, the winner, Chicken Joe’s, had the highest quality nugget with the best taste. Its pricing makes it more of an occasional buy rather than a quick bite, but they offer a high quality, classic nugget.

McDonald's

McDonald’s offers very consistent nuggets with a 2–3 bite size. The flavor seems to come from the chicken, which feels very processed and spongy, and leaves an aftertaste. The breading doesn’t have much of a flavor and seems to separate from the chicken, with the nuggets often having air bubbles between the chicken and the breading. The price for a 20 piece box is \$5.50, which is on the cheaper side.

Grandma G's

Grandma G’s was the most unique of the chicken nuggets we tasted. It is sold as “chicken chunks,” which may be why it’s so different. Overall, it was the nugget with the most flavor, but the least traditional. The nugget seems to be flavored with a little curry, giving it a spice and yellow look. They were a lot bigger than the nuggets reviewed, with each piece being around 5–6 bites. The pieces have a more homemade taste, with some being more dry or singed than others, but all being high quality chicken. Grandma G’s comes in a four piece plate with fries and homemade sauce, either barbeque or hot, for \$6.48.

Wendy's

Wendy’s offers a very crispy consistent nugget, also in the 2-3 bite size range. This nugget is juicy and has no noticeable artificial taste or aftertaste. The breading has flecks of peppers, and a perfect amount of salt. You can get 20 pieces for \$7.97, which makes it the most expensive “standard” nugget.

Burger King

Burger King offers consistent nuggets in the 2–3 bite size range. Their nuggets had nice seasoning on the breading, and the chicken didn’t have a processed taste although it still had the processed texture and look. Burger King offers the best price, with a 20 piece ringing up at \$3.66.

Chicken Joe's

Chicken Joe’s provided a very juicy, high quality chicken nugget. Served hot, the bulk of its flavor comes in the breading, while the inside is moist, very real chicken. The pieces can be eaten in 2–3 bites. Something unique about Chicken Joe’s is the way it is sold: it comes in a bag, sold by the pound with fries mixed in. It is on the pricier side—one pound of chicken nuggets and fries costs a hefty \$16.

DOWNTOWN TROY

Market a must-go

The Troy Waterfront Farmers Market is held on Saturdays from 9 am to 2 pm, at Monument Street from April to October, and in the Troy Atrium from November to March. They house nearly 100 local farmers, food vendors, and artists that sell their products each week. The market emphasizes the community by regulating products to be sold only by its vendors, without any commercial preparation for mixes, filling, or content. For more information, check out their website at www.troymarket.org.



Anna Koenig/The Polytechnic

