Jackson thanks Bystroff for email

Bystroff’s claims of alumni racism, sexism, heightism endorsed, appreciated

"That was a very brave thing you did, and I deeply appreciate it. These things are hard, and I just wanted to thank you for being willing to speak up on my behalf," wrote President Shirley Ann Jackson in an email to Professor and Director of the Bioinformatics Program Chris Bystroff. Jackson’s email came in less than three hours after Bystroff sent an email to a faculty mailing list in which he attributed the drop in alumni donations to "residual racism and sexism" against Jackson. The email also blames the Faculty Senate’s failed vote of no confidence and lack of an apology for the "rift" between the administration and faculty.

Bystroff only served as the chair of the Faculty for the remaining year of a three-year term on the Faculty Senate, which was vacated by Professor David Isaacson after he served for two years.

Since Vice President for Institute Advancement Craig Eastin forwarded Bystroff’s email to alumni and its content gained local media attention, “several admin people reached out to [Bystroff], including a VP, two deans, the provost, the chair of biology, and members of the Faculty Senate.”

According to Bystroff, Jackson reached out "indirectly" through Eastin, during a “long phone call one morning,” which he described as “very cordial.”

At the time of publication, Vice President for Strategic Communications and External Relations Richie Hunter had not responded to questions about whether or not the opinions expressed in Bystroff’s email can be considered the official position of the Institute.

Projected cost of SafeRide: $120k

Brookelyn Parslow
Senior Reporter

SAFERIDE IS THE NEWEST ADDITION to Rensselaer’s Student Living and Learning arsenal of student resources, chosen “in response to students’ requests for another transportation option.”

The door-to-door service has been designed with the safety of student users in mind, and acts within a similar boundary to the RPI Campus Shuttle. Each SafeRide car is equipped with a trained driver and passenger, along with a dispatcher placed in Off-Campus Commons to provide safe and efficient transportation for students to and from the academic campus and the students’ home.

Early on, SafeRide affiliates sent the Student Senate a document outlining budget projections in hopes of collaboration, and possibly funding, which was denied. In that document, the projected first year expenses were $139,015.20, with the majority of that cost coming from payroll expenses.

IN THIS FILE PHOTO FROM THE NOVEMBER FALL TOWN MEETING, JACKSON ADDRESSES the Rensselaer community’s concerns.

Bystroff’s claims of alumni racism, sexism, heightism endorsed, appreciated

OUTING CLUB NOW OFF PROBATION

Darby Burns
Senior Reporter

DURING THE EXECUTIVE BOARD meeting on Thursday, money for Big Red Freakout shirts and facepaint was approved, the Outing Club was taken off probation, the Domino Toppling Club was approved for Union recognition, and a motion regarding the Gaming Club was tabled.

The first two motions to come before the Executive Board were to approve $450 for shirts and to approve $50 for face paint for the Pep Band, specifically for the upcoming Big Red Freakout event. The request was presented by Manager Liv Williams ’18. The motion to reallocate $450 from contingencies for face paint passed 14-0-1. The motion to reallocate $50 from contingencies for face paint passed 14-1-1.

The next club to request money was the Gaming Club, which was represented by Treasurer Richard Massimilla ’21. The club requested $440 to purchase four Boardgame Players Association memberships.
Next, the Domino Toppling Club came seeking Union recognition. Representatives explained that the club is intended for anyone interested in the art form of domino toppling and that anyone can come and learn. There are currently two students at RPI that are considered world-class domino artists, and they lead the club and help teach whoever is interested.

Questions were raised regarding the sustainability of the club, considering that the majority of knowledge comes from two members. However, it was also mentioned that the club could bring Rensselaer good recognition and that the idea of sustainability in the future should not restrict the club now. In the end, the motion to recognize the club passed 15-0-2.

The final club-related motion of the night was one to take the Outing Club off probation, effective immediately. President of the Union Matthew Rand ’19 spoke on the club’s behalf, saying that they have been “extremely responsive” to everything that has been asked of them and that they have been “smashing” the deadlines that have been set. There is still a spring deadline for documents that remains in effect, but Rand said he didn’t foresee any issues.

Graduate Representative CJ Markum brought up that the original issue with the Outing Club involved alcohol and the Fall Lake George trip, and asked if the club had “learned their lesson.” Rand replied that they had, and said that part of the problem was that there weren’t enough trip leaders, but now another eight or nine students have whomever is interested.

Are you interested in joining The Poly? Come to a meeting in our office RU 3418!

We have business meetings on Sunday at 3 pm, where we talk about general operations and content. On Mondays at 6:30 pm, we proofread all of our content during copy hour. On Tuesdays at 7 pm we have closing.

Editor in Chief Brooklyn Parslow also has office hours from 2-3 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays.
Super Bowl Ads

10. Steven Tyler feel something
9. Mountain Dew Ice
8. Touchdown celebrations to come
7. Wendy’s Iceberg
6. Danny DeVito M&M
5. Doritos Blaze
4. This is the Pepsi
3. Squirrels
2. Alexa loses her voice
1. It’s a Tide ad

DILBERT
by Scott Adams

TOP TEN LIST

Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885

PLP
Application for Fall 2018 & Spring 2019 is open to all undergraduate sophomore or junior students. Please submit the following materials in person at the Archer Center located in Academy Hall or scan and email to archercenter@rpi.edu by March 9, 2018:

• Resume
• Cover letter
• Completed faculty/professional reference form
• List of campus involvement activities

For more information, contact Christine Allard at bondc@rpi.edu
PLP Info Night: February 21st 6:00-7:00pm Academy Hall, Suite 2232

Professional Leadership Program

• Fall or spring semester, two-hour, co-curricular seminar series.
• Practice becoming a strong, resilient person who can translate that to a professional workplace.
• Students engage with corporate professionals, alumni/ae and community partners.
• Topics include communication, workplace ethics, understanding corporate culture, leadership, effective decision making, networking and negotiating, and managing change and more.
• No grades, no homework and no tests.
• Mondays from 6-8 PM in the Student Union.

Sports Teams

WORDFIND
by Tyler Carney

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

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FREE SNACKS!
Giveaways!
BOOK REVIEW

Dystopian series has compelling world

Nicholas Luczak
Senior Reviewer

Do you like Game of Thrones? Ancient Roman history? Dystopian fiction? How about The Hunger Games? Well, if any of these things interest you, then I strongly suggest that you give Pierce Brown’s Red Rising saga a try.

The books manage to build a compelling world and make you feel invested in the characters, all while remaining action-packed. Now would be a good time to start reading, as Brown has released his latest continuation to the series with his newest book, Iron Gold, which has more than delivered on the series’ promise of being fast-paced, surprising, and intelligent.

The four-book series features a world where humanity has colonized much of the solar system and developed technologies bordering on fantasy. While the books may be set in the future, they follow an archaic caste system delineated by color, enforced through genetic, technological, and political manipulation. At the top of the society, the “Golds” hold the responsibility of controlling everything, while at the bottom, the “Reds” must toil so that the Golds may prosper.

The story follows a Red named Darrow and his burning desire to exact retribution against those that enslaved him and stole away the love of his life.

The worldbuilding in this book is outstanding, featuring fantastical settings, captivating dialogue and politics, all while drawing from ancient Roman history. The series utilizes our already vivid imagination of the different planets in our solar system, from the red sands of Mars, to the barren craters of the Moon, allowing the reader to easily picture these stunning landscapes. In addition to the settings, the political struggles make sense while not becoming boring or overwhelming, as many fantasy series often do. What really drew me in more than anything else was the parallels to the rise of the Roman Republic and the references to Roman mythology. Anyone captivated by the history of Rome will appreciate these undeniable similarities of conquest, honor, and betrayal.

I also liked how the main character Darrow—throughout the saga—must play with fire and sometimes sacrifice his ideals to achieve his goals. It’s his potential to do good or commit great evils, and his struggle to decide that makes his character so compelling. He is pitted against characters who are true villains where he can be the hero, and sometimes he must play the villain by going against people who are just trying to survive in their dog-eat-dog world.

Brown’s writing made me fall in love with many of the characters who fight alongside Darrow. Characters like Sevro, Pax, and Mustang are so genuine that you start to feel deeply invested in them. What makes this worse is that Brown does not hesitate to kill them off in emotional and cinematic ways. I found myself having to take a break from reading multiple times as my emotions got the better of me.

If you’re a sucker for action, you won’t be disappointed. The series is packed with scenes varying from beautifully violent sword duels to visceral conflicts of war. The series also plays with the darker parts of humanity; even in the future, where humans have so much going for them, people still commit unthinkable acts of violence. All of these things together makes the series a truly unique and compelling literary feat. If you’re looking for a page-turner which will make you run the emotional gamut, give Red Rising a try! 😎

BOY: Maintains pop, rock sound

From Page 12

I am used to the fast-paced and more aggressive side of Fall Out Boy; however, I definitely appreciate the mood this song puts me in. I feel comforted by the background music and Burna Boy’s voice. While the song displays a message of self-hatred, commonly found in the band’s music, it is refreshing to hear their message expressed through a new style of music.

In my opinion, Mania feels balanced, with some songs channeling inner anger in a fast-paced style, which are lighter and more fun. There is definitely something for both older and newer fans to enjoy. An album such as this one shows that the early 2000s rock band is able to adapt to the newer age of music. Fall Out Boy has paired their old sound really well with one for the younger generation. This, of course, doesn’t imply that people don’t appreciate “old” Fall Out Boy. It just means that change can be surprising as well as beautiful, and shouldn’t be feared. 😎
The Editors

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

Apple is a company which seemingly draws controversy like no other. Some use their products religiously, often swearing off alternatives, while others wonder how people can justify spending obscene amounts of money on products which often stray so far from their initial vision. I am quite interested in the history of the company, so I have written this article to explain why I believe the company took the decisions it did during the last years which, upon first glance, might seem confusing to fans.

It is my opinion that Apple aims to innovate in ways that Google, Samsung, and others who are more about disruption do not. While they may deal with computers, they attempt to abstract its brand on any device with fancy new parts and call it innovative, Apple has a different objective. While they may deal with computers, they attempt to abstract the technology away from the user. Technology for technology’s sake is bad; anyone with a elderly family member knows that more advanced tech can be more distracting and confusing. Apple takes pride in creating a seamless environment which utilizes increasing more convenient products for the user.

Apple is also special in that they don’t care about the market. Why try to challenge the ubiquitous presence of the symbolic white headphones by removing the headphone jack? Are they just trying to pull out your phone whenever you get a notification when you can have a small device on your wrist discretely notify you? Why stop there! Why not make a FaceTime call whenever you want to. And why pull out a laptop when all you want to do is take notes in class? This pursuit of minimalism is done on two fronts: by simplifying their products and by creating a seamless environment.

From the convenience of the Apple Watch; to the removal of buttons, bezels, and the headphone jack from the iPhone; to the ease of use of the Apple Pencil, they have removed all that isn’t absolutely necessary in order to make a product accessible to more people. Why try to pull out your phone whenever you get a notification when you can have a small device on your wrist discretely notify you? Why not make a FaceTime call whenever you want to. And why pull out a laptop when all you want to do is take notes in class? This pursuit of minimalism is done on two fronts: by simplifying their products and by creating a seamless environment which utilizes increasingly more convenient products for the user.

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While it’s easy to applaud Apple for their decision making, it is hard to overlook the philosophical shift they've made. They were once a company that innovated dangerously; they were once a company that challenged the market. But they are no longer that company. They are now the market. They are no longer a disruptor of the market. They are the market. They are the new norm.

Theorizing about Apple’s business strategies

Editorial

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cunning, well connected instead of having centric instead of autocratic, wise instead of give? Would Dr. Jackson be considered ec- a striving for excellence at any cost. His personality flaws became part of the culture: the world’s technology has improved for it. Business Insider decisions to run a successful business, the famous example being Steve Jobs, who was a de facto professor and student. He gave me the impression of someone who felt it a responsibility to speak out if he feared it a responsibility to speak out if he saw something wrong, even if it meant people would think less of him. It may be helpful to reinterpret his words and actions beyond your desire to make a statement. In the spirit of full disclosure, as a grad student, I don’t like Dr. Jackson for other reasons.

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The question for us today is this: if Shir- a famous example being Steve Jobs, who was a de facto professor and student. He gave me the impression of someone who felt it a responsibility to speak out if he feared it a responsibility to speak out if he saw something wrong, even if it meant people would think less of him. It may be helpful to reinterpret his words and actions beyond your desire to make a statement. In the spirit of full disclosure, as a grad student, I don’t like Dr. Jackson for other reasons.

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IMAGINE WANTING TO GO TO AN EVENT, only to find that the tickets sold out be- fore you even knew they were on sale. This recently happened to the senior class with their event, 100 Days: A Night in Saratoga. Word of ticket sales was only spread through the Class of 2018 Facebook page; with updates only being posted in this group, the announcement did not effectively reach the entire senior class. Ticket sales went live January 26, and by January 30, the tickets were sold out.

“The tickets went live again at noon on February 2, with many anxious seniors crowding the online page to purchase; except this time, there were only 100 tickets available, and seniors could purchase a ticket for a guest, but not another senior. Why do students of the senior class get to take advantage of another senior? The event is meant to be bringing the senior class to- gether, yet an overwhelming majority is unable to attend this year’s Class of 2018 100 Days event. The class council should have prop- erly anticipated more of the senior class coming when planning this event; the fact that some students cannot at- tend their own senior gathering as an event of celebrating their last 100 days at Rensselaer is disappointing.

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WANT TO SUBMIT A LETTER?

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**Sports**

Philadelphia Eagles soar to first Super Bowl victory

**Features**

**ON-CAMPUS EVENT**

ZuZu acrobats flip, jump, limbo

Jacob Kaplan  
Staff Reviewer

On Saturday afternoon, the Center of the McNeil Room was empty. Rows of chairs were set up around three sides of the clearing. At noon, booths were set up by the walls to serve food. People began trickling in. At 1 pm, Nya Jackson '18, vice president of Rensselaer’s Black Student Alliance and M.C. of the event, started things off.

Jackson introduced all the clubs and organizations that helped set up and promote the show. As she introduced them, a representative from each group offered a few words about their club and its objective. The clubs were varied, but all were there to promote diversity, share culture, and raise awareness.

There were clubs representing ethnic communities like the Black Student Alliance, Alpha Phi Alpha, the Chinese American Student Association, the Indian Students Association, and the newly restored African Students Alliance. There were academic organizations representing the interests of communities like the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers and the National Society of Black Engineers who, in partnership with RPI’s Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, organized last fall’s culture fair. Other clubs representing the more artistic expressions of these cultures were there like RPI Sangam, an Indian dance team and ABADA Capeiro RPI, an Afro-Brazilian martial art and dance team.

Jacob thanked the clubs for their support, the music started, and the ZuZu acrobats came out. Six performers wearing leopardskin patterned unitards danced to the music. The beat resonated with the audience and they started clapping to it. The acrobats started their performance with a human pyramid. They brought out a limbo bar and had people from the audience go under it, moving it lower and lower until they had to help the participants go under without falling. After everyone had tried, the acrobats showed off their skills, moving the bar less than a foot off the ground, but still managing to bend far enough back to skirt under it. They then brought out two hoops, delicately balanced one on top of the other, and started jumping through them forwards and backwards without knocking them over. They played double Dutch but instead of hopping through jump ropes, they did backflips. By then, all of the chairs in the McNeil were filled. People were standing by the walls. The show even caught the attention of dozens of students upstairs who tuned in on the railing and sat on tables to watch.

The ZuZu’s closing act was the most exciting and nerve-wracking. One-by-one, the acrobats stacked wooden chairs. The acrobat stacking the chairs would do a handstand on each one he placed. By the seventh chair, his feet were eye-level with the onlookers upstairs. They closed with another human pyramid and thanked everybody.

The main event was over, but the acrobats stuck around for another half hour to take pictures. Some brave volunteers got their pictures taken while being lifted by one acrobat standing on the shoulders of another. After the ZuZu acrobats left, many of the clubs stuck around, talking, dancing, and laughing.

The show was held to inaugurate Black History Month, but it also helped to highlight the work these clubs are doing on campus. It was a lot of fun from beginning to end.

**Fall Out Boy renewed**

MANIA HAS RECEIVED some positive reviews, acknowledging the band’s new musical ventures.

Pragati Pant  
Staff Reviewer

As a junior in high school, I was introduced to Fall Out Boy through their Save Rock and Roll album, which was considered their newer music at the time. Being a first-time listener, I was unaware that they had previously split up, and that this was a comeback album. Eventually, I came to love their older music as well. As I listened to more of their albums, I was surprised to learn how strongly people felt about the sound of “old” Fall Out Boy versus that of “new” Fall Out Boy. So when I heard that Fall Out Boy was releasing a new album in 2018, I was, of course, excited but also doubtful. While I knew I would probably admire their new songs regardless of how accurate this album was to their sound, I was curious to learn how other, more authentic fans would feel.

Fall Out Boy is Mania’s seventh studio album, which combines their well-known rock sound with a more pop style. The album showcases the band’s ability to write lyrics that make their songs meaningful as well as relatable. This has been a consistent strength of theirs, even as their style has evolved over the years.

Listeners get a taste of their older style of music in, “Stay Frosty Royal Milk Tea,” a song about self-discovery and how we stop ourselves from moving forward and succeeding. Fall Out Boy delivers this message with an electric guitar accompanied instrumental track. This song is definitely angry and leans towards rock, attracting many original Fall Out Boy fans, unlike some of the other rock tracks on the album.

As a first-time listener, I was curious to learn how other, more authentic fans would feel. While I knew I would probably admire their new songs regardless of how accurate this album was to their sound, I was curious to learn how other, more authentic fans would feel.