

“ Given their outcome’s significance and ability to set the course for all students at RPI, *The Polytechnic* is incredibly disappointed in the conduct and execution of last week’s GM Week 2018 elections. ”

# Warner, Etzine elected GM, PU



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# Editorial

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

## EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

# Taking a break is worthy of consideration

THIS SUMMER, AND FOR THE NEXT EIGHT MONTHS, I WILL basically be taking a leave of absence from society. My “ship date” is May 29, and I will be flying to Fort Sill, Oklahoma to begin my military training. Contrary to what I have been feeling the past six months, today I’m actually really excited for this new beginning.

College is tiring, and it’s not only due to our long hours spent studying. In college, we have a constant pressure to grow; we are here to learn, but also meet our lifelong friends, find our calling in life, learn what our hobbies are, discover things about ourselves, build character, become independent, set up our career paths, and maybe along the way, find our significant others. It’s a whole lot of “adulting” in a short period of time, and personally, it’s been a tiring journey.

As a little bit of background, I am a first-generation college student who grew up in Utah—a place that is very family-oriented. Apart from the geographical influences, being Latina with Mexican heritage has also influenced my growth. Traditionally, Mexican families are extremely tight. Kids aren’t expected to move out at 18—they’re encouraged to stay at home. Many Latino homes are made up of multiple families, and grandparents often live with their kids and grandkids. My family has always been very close-knit,



**Crystal Vejar**  
Contributing Editor

and leaving them, 2,198 miles away was one of the more difficult things I’ve done. Don’t get me wrong, I chose to come to RPI. I was excited to get far away from my hometown to experience something new, I wanted to be independent! I didn’t realize how dependent I really was until I had to spend birthdays, Thanksgiving dinners, long weekends, and breaks missing my family.

My journey toward becoming a real adult hasn’t been the smoothest. My self-esteem was at an all-time low a semester ago. Somewhere along the way to where I am today, I learned to define myself based on my grades and achievements instead of who I am outside of my resume. Going from straight-A student in high school, to maybe getting one A a semester was a bit demoralizing. Finding a brand new set of friends was exciting, but also tiring on the days when I just wanted to be home and felt alone. Missing my family added an extra adjustment curve that many of us have, but it hit me a little extra hard. Learning that I needed to re-learn how to study was a shock, and organizing my “free time,” keeping up self-care, sleeping, exercising, eating right, and keeping up with the new self-imposed pressures of making my parents, neighbors, and friends proud of how far I’ve made it, were all exhausting—and I doubt I’m the only one who has felt this way.

I am so tired of school that I am now looking forward to leaving for boot camp—which sounds a little crazy. Two years ago, I couldn’t wait to get to college! However, my draw to the Army stems from its structure. College is a lot of freedom all at once, and it’s easy to feel like you’ve wasted time. While I’m in training, I don’t have to worry about what to do or what I want; I’m going to be told what to do and what to feel. As awful as that can sound, it’s a sort of freedom I am looking forward to right now. I’m looking forward to the stability that comes from having a set schedule of when to wake up, when to exercise, when to shower, what to learn, when to eat, when to socialize, and when to sleep. I have the freedom to shut my brain off, follow directions, and hopefully graduate basic training and AIT with a killer beach body, a group of people that I will most likely be friends with for the rest of my life, a career path, and discipline—all while getting paid.

Leaving society for eight months may be a little extreme for some, but to all of you who are struggling through Spring Semester, I encourage you to think about taking some time off. That may mean taking a week off from social media to decrease some of the pressures, taking a day hike to be alone, or maybe taking a quick weekend trip home to rest. However you want to approach it, take some time to acknowledge how much you’re growing during your time in college, and remember that it is only natural to need a break. ♦

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# Elections flawed, reform necessary going forward

GM WEEK ELECTIONS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT Student Government event of the year. They determine who will represent us and advocate for student interests. Given their outcome’s significance and ability to set the course of the year for all students at RPI, *The Polytechnic* is incredibly disappointed in the conduct and execution of the GM Week 2018 elections.

As we covered on Thursday, the ballots contained duplicate candidates and a candidate without the proper number of nominations. Polls were scheduled to open at 9 am, but the Elections Commission delayed them until 9:30 am so that they could scramble to add a faculty member and amendments to the *Union Constitution*, which they appeared to have overlooked. According to the *GM Week 2018 Elections Handbook*, “Prior to an election, a preliminary copy of the ballots for each class year will be posted. It is the responsibility of each candidate to ensure that their name appears and is accurate at least 24 hours prior to the election.” In a clear violation of this policy, the Elections Commission did not post ballots before the elections. If they had been posted on time, many of Thursday’s mistakes would likely have been made.

At one point, the chairperson of the Elections Commission issued a sanction indicating unanimous approval of all members of the Commission who were present, but *The Poly* determined that the vote count and list of members present were falsified. Especially troubling is that at least three members of the Elections Commission also ran in elections that the Commission oversees; these members could have been involved in discussions and votes on their own sanctions. Such a conflict of interest shouldn’t occur, and steps should be taken to ensure candidates are not participating in the Elections Commission.

Another issue is that candidates may staff polling locations, as it is not prohibited by the *Grand Marshal Week 2018 Elections Handbook*. This introduces situations where the person who greets voters and provides assistance and information regarding the ballot, may be listed on that very ballot. *The Poly* witnessed voters

asking what the *Constitution* amendments meant to the staff on location, who were tasked with giving an impartial explanation. However, one individual happened to be a member of the Graduate Council, which previously made a clear endorsement in support of the amendments. These situations should never occur—they can be avoided by barring candidates from staffing polling stations, as well as distributing full copies of the *Union Constitution* with Senate-approved, easy-to-understand breakdowns of what the amendments mean at the polling sites.

After outlining these issues, *The Poly* urges the Student Senate to take action to ensure the integrity of future elections. This could take the form of an ad-hoc committee tasked with reviewing what went wrong and creating recommendations to address the issues. It could take the form of a new, sufficiently motivated Elections Commission chairperson who will be critical of her own committee’s previous actions. Whatever the course, change is necessary, and it is up to the 49th Student Senate to ensure that these mistakes are not repeated. ♦

If you have criticisms of how we covered the GM Week 2018 elections, send us a Letter to the Editor at [edop@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:edop@poly.rpi.edu). We'd love to hear your feedback.

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TOP HAT

# Preferred names, student rights priorities

Hi RPI! My name is Stef Warner, and I am humbled to be serving you as your 153rd grand marshal! First and foremost, a big thank you to everyone who got out and voted last week. As the GM Week festivities come to an end, we are eager and ready to kick off the new term of Student Government!

I ran for grand marshal on a platform that focused on defending student rights, restoring a student-run Union, pushing for wellness and safety, prioritizing graduate student interests, improving the relationship with administrators, and emphasizing inclusivity and diversity. These focuses were not just a simple soapbox trying to get myself elected; they are promises I fully intend to keep, and I look forward to being held to my commitments during my term as grand marshal. I believe that RPI has the potential to be a more diverse and inclusive community, and I intend to push toward that future from day one.

As I touched upon in my platform, I believe this can be achieved with a number of concrete goals. As one of the first priorities after committee chairs have been confirmed, I will

be forming a subcommittee of the Student Life Committee to focus on the concerns students face across campus in terms of diversity and inclusivity.

I have also begun the application process for officer positions in the Student Senate. These rules include vice grand marshal, secretary, treasurer, parliamentarian, and committee chairs. I intend to fulfill my promise of ensuring applications are more readily available and reach a larger demographic of students, which begins with this announcement. Once you apply, I will reach out about scheduling interviews so I can get to know you more before the appointments are decided. The application can be found online at <http://sg.rpi.edu/apply>, and no previous experience is required to apply!

As we quickly approach the end of the semester, I want to touch upon another promise I made, as the work towards fulfilling it has already begun.

I have reached out to the Registrar, in hopes to work toward finally seeing the implementation of preferred names for students across campus by the conclusion of next semester.

If you are unfamiliar with this project, preferred names would allow students to identify to the Registrar's office a non-legal name that they commonly use. This non-legal preferred name would be made available to professors and staff, so they can use it wherever a legal name is not required, such as class listings and in most meetings with staff. As the project gets closer to completion, I will keep you updated with more details about the implementation and how students can sign up!

Above all, I am looking forward to advocating for student interests and defending student rights throughout the year. I am beyond excited to see what we can accomplish this term for the student body! If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [gm@rpi.edu](mailto:gm@rpi.edu)!



Stef Warner  
153rd Grand Marshal

DERBY

# Interested in E-Board? Applications are open

HELLO, RPI!

My name is Justin Etzine, and I'm excited to be serving you as the 129th president of the Union! For those of you I have not yet been able to meet, I am a coterminal MBA student in the Lally School, where I am concentrating in Corporate Technological Entrepreneurship. For my undergraduate degree, I studied Computer Science and Information Technology and Web Science. I grew up in Hollywood, Florida, and I chose to attend RPI because of the quirky and remarkable peers I knew I would meet. I have been involved in Student Government since I arrived at RPI four years ago, and student interests have always been of paramount importance to me. I am very excited for the year ahead of us.

As the semester begins to wind down, Executive Board appointments are just getting started; today, I'm writing to you to encourage you to get involved with the E-Board. If you have an interest in finances and business management, the E-Board is

for you. If you love our Union and want to give back to our current and future classmates, the E-Board is for you. If you want to get involved with Student Government, the E-Board is for you. If you believe in our Union's remarkable history as student-run, the E-Board is certainly for you.

The E-Board is responsible for managing the business affairs and finances for the Union. This includes preparing the entire multimillion-dollar budget for the Union, overseeing club affairs and supporting their ability to thrive, making decisions on facilities and business matters, and managing the use of Union spaces, among other things. The E-Board also works very closely with the Union administrative staff, who are responsible for executing the day-to-day operations of the Union. The admin staff

are phenomenal, and they often serve as mentors for us as we learn about the Union.

There are 17 positions on the E-Board open for application this semester, and an additional three will open in the fall for incoming freshmen and other students

who may be interested. There are representatives specifically for each academic class, members of clubs and organizations, and general at-large members of the Union. Also, the Student Senate, the Undergraduate Council, and the Graduate Council appoint members from their respective constituencies. As described in the Club and Organizations Policies and Guidelines, "E-Board Representatives have the responsibility of representing each of their clubs' interests to the E-Board, while at the same time representing the interests of all the students in the Union."

The application will be open until Tuesday, April 17 at 11:59 pm, and interviews will be held on a rolling schedule for all applicants. When applying, be sure to talk about your interest in, and understanding of, the Union, along with any relevant experiences you may want to share. You do not need prior experience as a member of Student Government to be qualified for serving on the Executive Board!

The applications can be found online at <http://sg.rpi.edu/apply>. If you have any questions or comments about the applications, or about the Union in general, please feel free to reach out to me at [pu@rpi.edu](mailto:pu@rpi.edu)!



Justin Etzine  
129th President of the Union



Justin Etzine  
President of the Union

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

# Changing music habits

A FEW WEEKS AGO I STUMBLED ACROSS AN ARTICLE by Haley Nahman called, "I Think I Figured Out Why My Brain Always Feels Fried" and for whatever reason I haven't been able to get it out of my head. It talks about the ways that people nowadays consume information. Some people will fully follow artists or authors, becoming familiar with their work overtime. They, on a daily basis, read and listen with an "intentionality." Others, like the author of this particular article, listen and absorb passively, taking what comes to them—content suggested by friends, algorithms, or publications. On the musical side of things, this was something that stuck with me.

I'm sure it will come as no surprise that the reason this resonated with me was that I fall firmly in the second category. I name playlists with the dates I started them because I jumble together whatever I come across that speaks to me in some way and then I listen to them until I get bored and start anew. As a result, there is rarely any real connection to the music I'm hearing, beyond simply that I like it. I might add a song because the lyrics have a line that gives me goose bumps, or the melody has a dip leading into a swell that gives me shivers. The playlists I make will give a song like "I'm Your Man" by Leonard Cohen, and follow it up immediately with "Pineapple" by Ty Dolla \$ign, and then "Normal" by Sasha Sloan— combination with absolutely no clear rhyme or reason to it.

Until now, I had never really thought about the fact that I do this. The continuous stream of

variety has always felt natural and easy. To pay attention to what any one artist is doing, and has done over their career would require me to go out of my way and take time and effort that, typically, I don't have the inclination to give. Why listen to a whole album, which would contain songs that I might not like as much as the one that had drawn me in, when I could listen to a computer generated playlist full of songs containing a similar vibe?

Now, the way I'm consuming is changing. It's partially a conscious effort and partially just that I'm now noticing the patterns. There have been several albums recently released by artists I like, who I know I like because they perpetually have songs that I get caught up in enough to add to a playlist, that I have taken the time to listen to from start to finish. And here's the thing: it feels good. Taking the time to listen to something in its entirety, to me gives a depth that makes the songs themselves so much more impactful.

I'm nowhere close to being able to attentively follow all the artists I listen to, or know everything about them, their music, and their inspiration. Honestly I may never get there, as much as I may fantasize about it. But I think that making the conscious effort to think about where the music blasting through my headphones is coming from might be enough. Taking a step away from the passive absorption to actively seek out, and listen to understand—occasionally anyway—is enough. Or at the very least, it's a start. ♦



Darby Burns  
News Editor

## Poly Snapshots The Question:

Photos and interviews by Crystal Vejar

Who is your favorite professor?



Brendan Freiler  
BCBP '18

"David Goldschmidt, because his drive, work ethic, and put-togetherness remind me of my own."



Soumaya Bahlouli  
BIOL '20

"Margarita Kirova-Snover, because she is adorable and understanding."



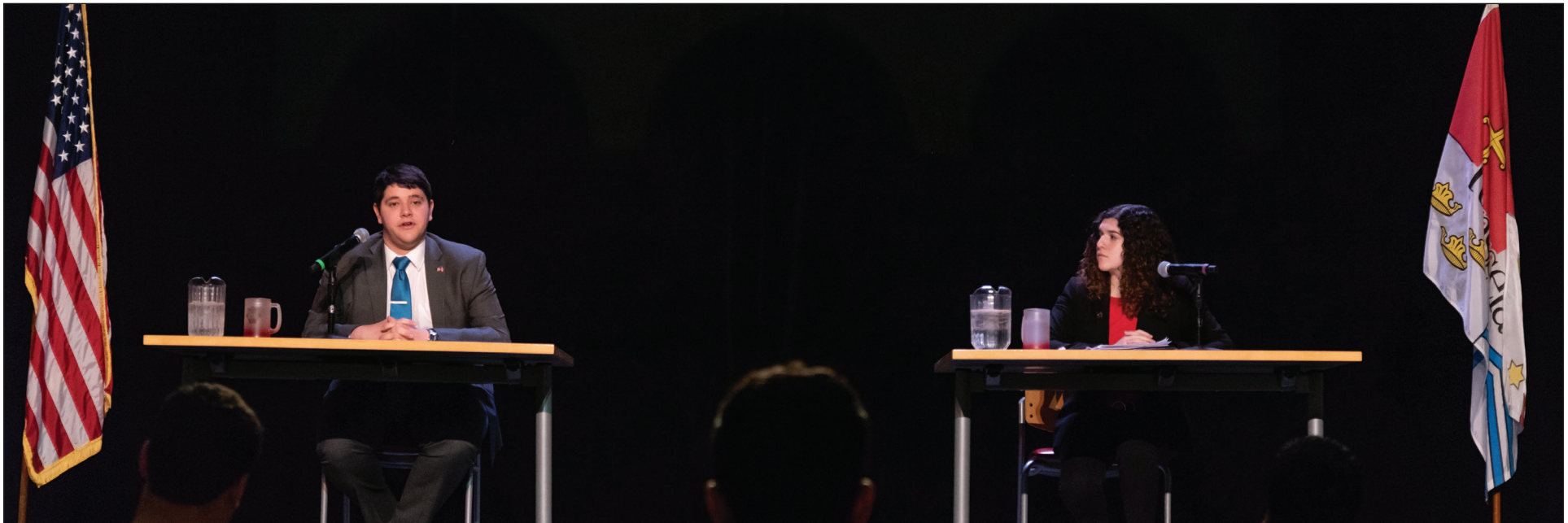
Henry Jaques  
MECL '21

"Keith Taylor, he's really interesting to listen to."



ELECTIONS

GM and PU candidates share their views



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

PROSPECTIVE GM AND PU CANDIDATES DEFEND their platforms and share their plans if elected to office during a two-hour long debate, where students could ask questions.

ELECTIONS

Certified GM Week election results

Grand Marshal

- 1. Stef Warner (1516)
- 2. Nancy Bush (1312)

President of the Union

- 1. Justin Etzine (1718)
- 2. Ida Etemadi (1104)

Undergraduate President

- 1. Joey Lyons (2515)

Alumni President

- 1. Ellie Mees (572)

Alumni Vice President

- 1. Hannah Merrow (300)
- 2. Trishala (TC) Chaudhary (290)

Alumni Secretary

- 1. Steve Sperazza (616)

Alumni Treasurer

- 1. Erica Lane (599)

Graduate Representatives

- 1. Anthony Ashley (173)
- 2. Ezra Teboul (156)
- 3. Amanda Youmans (153)
- 4. Benjamin Abramowitz (152)
- 5. David Hontz (7)

2019 President

- 1. Kinsley Rowan (356)

2019 Vice President

- 1. Colin Williamson (15)

2019 Senators

- 1. Stef Warner (1516)
- 2. Mary Clare Crochiere (342)
- 3. Samantha Meyerson (337)
- 4. Brian Wisbauer (5)

2019 Representatives

- 1. Stephanie Tan (388)
- 2. Samantha Spano (374)
- 3. Charly Blazy (15)
- 4. Benjamin Morrison (9)
- 5. Christopher McCulloh (8)
- 6. Garrick Tsui (8)
- 7. Brian Wisbauer (6)
- 8. Stephen Duduch (5)

Independent Senators

- 1. Anthony Dai (2021)
- 2. Bryon Johns (7)

Graduate Senators

- 1. Lauren Gandy (168)
- 2. Heidi Niskanen (147)
- 3. The Moose DiBasio (142)
- 4. Kinshuk Panda (141)
- 5. Kurt Dominesey (3)

2020 President

- 1. Sruja Machani (693)

2020 Vice President

- 1. Steven Cano (723)

2020 Senators

- 1. Chris Duffy (382)
- 2. Jayshon Adams (380)
- 3. Meagan Lettko (300)
- 4. Lily Wang (21)
- 5. Joseph Lyon (14)

2020 Representatives

- 1. Emily Blundo (459)
- 2. Ariana Gerdis (436)
- 3. Gabriella Fantell (426)
- 4. Milena Gonzalez (423)
- 5. Clarisse Baes (413)
- 6. Jeanine Moreau (409)
- 7. Alexis Castrellan (389)
- 8. Grace Roller (7)

Greek Senator (Panhellenic Council)

- 1. Samantha Wong (45)

Greek Senators (Interfraternity Council)

- 1. Tomas Prevencher (607)

Brookelyn Parslow  
Senior Reporter

STEF WARNER '19 AND JUSTIN ETZINE '18 have been elected Grand Marshal and President of the Union, respectively.

A total of 2,900 students cast their ballots on Thursday, which is down from 3,044 during GM Week 2017. However, during this time, enroll-

2021 President

- 1. Evan Lazaro (676)

2021 Vice President

- 1. Zachary Taylor (666)

2021 Senators

- 1. Jonathan Bao (468)
- 2. Advait Narayan (453)
- 3. Nicholas Dybas (13)
- 4. Spencer Smith (4)

2021 Representatives

- 1. Lisa Sulmasy (369)
- 2. Noah Cohen (338)
- 3. Ben Longchamp (325)
- 4. Andrew Nagawiecki (307)
- 5. Timothy Cieslak (299)
- 6. Kyle Krois (296)
- 7. Baran Baysal (272)
- 8. Marc Pinto (11)

FS Promotion and Tenure Student Elected Member

- 1. Christopher Carothers (2812)

Amendment I

Yes (2325)  
No (412)

Amendment II

Yes (1702)  
No (1041)

ment increased from 7,442 to 7,633 students. Only three seats for the position of Class of 2020 senator were filled, because the last seat was invalidated. All results as certified by the Elections Commission can be found below. Winners are in bold. Asterisks indicate that the vote count contains duplicates. Italics indicate write-ins.



EMPAC EVENT

Kyle Pope on current state of journalism

Jacob Kaplan  
Senior Reporter

KYLE POPE, EDITOR IN CHIEF AND PUBLISHER OF THE *Columbia Journalism Review*, spoke on the current state of journalism in the Experimental Media and Performance Arts Center’s concert hall last Tuesday.

“It’s almost like *A Tale of Two Cities*. It’s simultaneously the best of times and the worst of times for journalism,” Pope began. He elaborated that people are paying closer attention to the news than any other time in recent history. With this extra attention comes higher scrutiny and mistrust.

Pope used the 2009 financial crisis to highlight the shift in media trust. After the crisis and bailout of the banks, the Obama administration reassured people that the economy would improve. The media relayed this sentiment. As a result, the public, for the most part, believed things would improve. “There was no knee-jerk flights to ideological corners,” Pope said. People believed the Obama administration and the media even though they may have had different ideologies. Pope said, if a similar financial crisis happened today, people may not be as trusting.

Pope said this mistrust has many causes. First is the decline of local news outlets. Because of outdated business models, local newspapers and other outlets cannot survive. Without local coverage, people feel disconnected from the media. They do not see themselves represented in larger organizations like *The New York Times*. This leads to the second problem Pope discussed: lack of diversity in larger news outlets. The vast majority of journalists are white people from upper middle-class backgrounds who mostly write about issues that concern them. This leaves out the majority of the country, which then feel further alienated from the press. Pope said there had been a few attempts at reconciling this by covering issues faced by other demographics. All of which, he said, failed and came off as condescending.

The third problem, according to Pope, is that social media outlets are promoting false news stories. The last problem is that powerful people are “borrowing from the authoritarian



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

KYLE POPE SPEAKS on the decline of local news outlets, mistrust in the media, and experiences in the industry.

handbook” and trying to discredit the media. In total, the press and the politicians they cover are both to blame for the erosion of trust in the media.

“Is any of this fixable?” Pope asked. He said the most important thing the media can do to recover their reputation is to fix the business models of local news outlets. “Trust begins on the local level,” expressed Pope. If people feel represented by and connected to local media, national media will be less polarizing. Pope said he believed that the subscription business model for local news is not the best solution; it incentivizes divisive material to attract more readers. The advertisement business model is dying out because newspapers and news websites are not the best way to reach consumers anymore. Pope said that a non-profit model, like ProPublica, may work but “there is no silver bullet” and that “now is the time to try new and different approaches.”

When Pope opened up for questions, one person asked how to pick news sources to follow. Pope compared media intake to a diet in that one should never get all their news from one source. He suggested following a range of local to national news sources of varying media types: print, podcast, television, and so on. He also suggested taking the occasional break from media by escaping through unrelated literature.

Pope was asked about his time working for Jared Kushner at the *New York Observer*, which lead to a conversation about the inevitability of billionaires owning news outlets. There was some discussion on the future of news stories written by artificial intelligence. While more formulaic news stories like sports and financial reports are now being written by bots, Pope believes we are a lifetime away from bots writing exactly like humans. After taking questions, Pope thanked everyone for joining him and taking an interest in journalism. ♦

GM WEEK 2018

Elections marred by falsified sanctions



Brooklyn Parslow/The Polytechnic

RENSELAER STUDENTS VOTE in the Union’s west lobby to determine who will represent them in student government for the next year.

Brooklyn Parslow  
Senior Reporter

THE ELECTIONS COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON falsified a sanction and issued it unilaterally, without a vote of the members of the Commission.

On April 4, the Elections Commission sanctioned 27 candidates with an additional hour of community service to the GM Week

Committee for failing to submit a Final Expense Report Form containing all campaign expenses on time.

The sanction reads, “Approved 9-0-0.” Commission member Erica Lane ’18, who

received this sanction for her alumni treasurer campaign, was listed as being present during the sanction’s passage, indicating that she voted on her own sanction.

When asked about the sanction and lack of abstentions, Elections Commission Chairperson Caleb Caraway ’19 said that the policy was “so cut and dry” that he didn’t see it as a conflict of interest for Lane to vote.

In messages viewed by *The Polytechnic*, when asked if Lane voted on a sanction against herself, Caraway said “No,” “Nobody voted on that,” and then added, “I just did it.”

Lane later told *The Poly* that she was not present and did not cast a vote, and the sanction’s vote count and list of members present was not accurate.

Student Government voting was inhibited by several issues. Polls were scheduled to open at 9 am, but were delayed by half an hour in order to add the Faculty Senate Promotion and Tenure Committee candidate and the amendments, which were forgotten. The polls opened at 9:30 am. When the polls did open, they included candidates that had not received sufficient nominations to be put on the ballot. This error was fixed later in the day.

Joseph Lyon ’20, who was running a write-in campaign for Class of 2020 senator because he did not receive sufficient nominations, was listed on the ballot before the voting system was updated. It is unclear if the votes he received while listed on the ballot will be discarded.

There were also duplicates on the ballot, which allowed voters to select the same person twice—under different names, such as “Chris Duffy” and “Christopher Duffy,” and “Joey Lyons” and “Josephine Lyons”—for a single position. The Union Systems Administrators are responsible for maintaining and running the voting software. According to Lead Systems Administrator David Raab ’19, individuals cannot be associated with their votes. Therefore, according to Raab, if someone voted for both “Chris Duffy” and “Christopher Duffy,” that vote would be counted twice in the candidate’s favor, and could not be undone.

In messages viewed by *The Polytechnic*, Caraway said, in reference to the duplicate votes, “There is no unfair advantage, as those races are effectively uncontested.”

However, in the Class of 2020 senator race—for which there are four open seats—three people were listed on the ballot, and two write-in candidates were seen poster around campus.

Throughout the middle of the day, lines for voting in the west lobby of the Union trailed through the McNeil Room. Wait times wavered around 40 minutes from noon to 2

pm, causing several students to leave without casting their votes. “I feel like this would go faster if they had more than two computers,” expressed Julianna VenDouern ’20 while waiting in line. ♦

“There is no unfair advantage, as those races are effectively uncontested.”



## OFF-CAMPUS EVENT

# Wet Monday at Muza, Polish holiday honored

Nicholas Luczak  
Senior Reviewer

SMIGUS-DYNGUS—ALSO KNOWN AS WET MONDAY—IS A POLISH HOLIDAY CELEBRATED ON THE MONDAY after Easter, where Polish boys and girls douse their crush with buckets of water and hit them with pussy willow branches. Although the origins of the tradition are not known exactly, its roots can be traced back to pagan times as a ritual to bring good harvests. While the tradition might sound confusing and borderline illegal, the Polish diaspora celebrates this lighthearted day throughout Polish communities around the world all the same.

On Monday, the local Polish restaurant, Muza, celebrated the day with traditional food, drink, and music. The menu featured homemade kielbasa, goiabki—which is a popular Polish dish of cabbage stuffed with meat—pierogi, kielbasa soup, and some bar items like European-influenced tacos. Overall, the food was true to traditional Polish cuisine; the kielbasa had its signature snap when you cut into it, the soup was hot and hearty, and the pierogi were obviously handmade, as you could see the painstaking creases that were made to contain the potato-cheese filling.

Out by the bar, Polish-Americans celebrated by getting their pussy willow branches and getting down to well-known polka tunes. Muza did a great job of setting a fun vibe with their choice of music. While the polka band that played wasn't terribly traditional—I heard too many German drinking songs and mispronounced Polish words—it might have been more appropriate to attract the average second or third generation Polish-American, and definitely didn't stop people from having a good time.

If you're looking for a good time akin to that of St Patrick's Day, Muza's Dyngus Day celebration offers good food, drink, and music. And who knows, maybe you'll even get spanked and a little wet, too! ♦

## CLUB SPOTLIGHT

# Festival of colors



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

THE HOLI CELEBRATION FEATURES students throwing colors and water at one another.

Pragati Pant  
Senior Reviewer

THE INDIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION PUT ON A HOLI celebration outside of Commons Dining Hall this past Saturday where students celebrated by throwing colors and spraying water on each other. This event was based on the Indian holiday of Holi, also known as the festival of colors. As a Hindu myself, I have celebrated Holi each year growing up with my family. Reminding me of home and bringing back fond memories, I thoroughly enjoyed the time I had.

The story of Holi is quite entertaining, involving an evil king, King Hiranyakashipu, who had one purpose in life: to have everyone worship him. However, his own son, Prahlada, to follow a different path. He wanted to worship Lord Vishnu, arguably the main god in Hinduism. King Hiranyakashipu didn't appreciate that Prahlada didn't respect him, and attempted to kill the child. After being unsuccessful multiple times, the king asked his evil sister, Holika, to help him. In an attempt to burn her nephew alive, Holika sat with Prahlada in a pit of fire, but Lord Vishnu was watching and saved the child. This left Holika to burn. In a rage, Lord Vishnu came down in the form of a half-human-half-lion creature, and clawed King Hiranyakashipu to death. Prahlada was made the new king,

as he should have been. A recurring theme in Hinduism, the defeat of the king and his sister shows good winning over evil, which is celebrated as the festival of Holi.

With such an eventful backstory, Holi is celebrated with a blast throughout India and other South Asian countries. Bringing this festival to campus shows ISA's dedication to providing a culturally diverse platform for the RPI student body. This gesture is very important because, while our school may be predominantly white, we still have a significant amount of different cultures that deserve to be celebrated.

Throughout the year, ISA puts on many events that are open to all students. In the fall, the club puts together a show about Diwali, which is known as the festival of lights. This celebration acknowledges the victory of Lord Ram as he defeats Ravan in an epic battle, once again showcasing the theme of good over evil. Additionally, the club sells traditional Indian food through their pani puri picnic and many samosa sales. In the spring, along with Holi, ISA has a formal open to all students, coming up on April 21. Check out this event if you're looking for a fun night of dancing and good food! Lastly, the club has one general body meeting per semester, which is a great way to get involved with ISA. ♦

## ALBUM REVIEW

# Break-up mixtape

Pragati Pant  
Senior Reviewer

SURPRISING HIS FANS, THE WEEKND RELEASED A mixtape, *My Dear Melancholy*, on March 30. This was the Canadian singer's first extended play, and it features French techno artist, Gesaffelstein. As a big fan of The Weeknd, I was excited when I heard this was released. Even though there are only six songs, the singer had a very clear message in mind when creating this masterpiece.

Abel Makkonen Tesfaye, better known by his stage name, The Weeknd, is an Ethiopian-Canadian singer-songwriter. He gained public recognition in 2010 through YouTube, and two years later released his first compilation album, *Trilogy*. Of his many songs, he is best known for his single, "Earned It," which was featured in the Fifty Shades of Grey soundtrack. Additionally, the song "Starboy," released as part of the album *Starboy* in 2016, gained much appreciation from the public. After three years, The Weeknd finally announced a new project in the making, leading up to the release of *My Dear Melancholy*.

With clear signs that this album is based on The Weeknd's recent break-up with singer Selena Gomez, the tone of *My Dear Melancholy* is rather somber. The songs focus on the singer's love for Gomez, strongly hinting at how he regrets ever being with her. The first track, "Call Out My Name," talks about how The Weeknd always put Gomez first; sources say that he was a big supporter of Gomez as she struggled with lupus. Although this song is slow, a majority of the album is layered with



Courtesy of XO and Republic Records

THE WEEKND'S FIRST MIXTAPE FEATURES bittersweet messages about relationships.

heavy techno music. The fourth track, "I Was Never There," features Gesaffelstein. While I didn't enjoy this song as much due to its techno feel, it definitely fits in well with the rest of the album.

My favorite song from the album is the sixth track, "Privilege." For me, this song stands out with its very convincingly heart-breaking combination of The Weeknd's soothing and mesmerizing voice with the somber background music. His voice flows well with the music produced, leaving the listener hooked to the rise and fall of the song.

Altogether, while this mixtape may be on the darker side of The Weeknd's work, it is still worth listening to. The songs tell a story of heartbreak, and the pain behind moving on. Because he is one of my favorite R&B singers, I would highly recommend this album to anyone looking for a good cry or even just to relax. ♦

## MOVIE REVIEW

# Blockers offers more

Pragati Pant  
Senior Reviewer

UPAC CINEMA HOSTED A FREE PRE-SCREENING OF THE UPCOMING UNIVERSAL PICTURES feature, *Blockers*. Starring John Cena and Leslie Mann, this movie follows three parents as they set out to ruin their daughters' prom night. While the movie is comedic on the surface, with silly and crude references, it has a much deeper message of the strength of family, which, as a fan of family drama, I thoroughly enjoyed.

Set in Illinois, the plot consists of three families whose daughters are best friends, and therefore, as is unrealistically depicted in many movies, the parents are also close. The three best friends, Julie, Kayla, and Sam, are preparing for the biggest night of their young lives: senior prom. This is their last hurrah before college, and they fully intend on making the night count—nothing's going to get in their way. But of course, when do things actually go as planned? Just as the girls leave for prom, three of the parents get a glimpse of the girls' plans for the night, and set out on their own adventure to stop the girls from "ruining their lives."

While the overall story is about the three best friends, the main characters arguably are actually three of the parents. John Cena, well known as a professional wrestler and for his roles in comedies, plays Mitchell, Kayla's father. His sidekicks are Lisa, Julie's mother, and Hunter, Sam's father, portrayed by Leslie Mann and Ike Barinholtz respectively. Personally, I enjoyed watching these three parents go through a series of unfortunate events. The scenes are silly, which is exactly what I was expecting from such a movie. However, I was surprised that it hinted at a more hidden message.

Nested within a lot of goofiness is the struggle each parent faces as their children grow up. No parent wants to admit that their child is old enough to make their own decisions. However, not every parent is depicted as super controlling or clingy. Kayla's mother, Marcie, is a very strong female character, and in my opinion, the only true feminist role model for the three best friends. I appreciate characters like Marcie, because they add to the depth of the movie by showing that not all parents have to be restrictive of their children's actions. But rather, parents differ in the way they communicate with their children, and, most of the time, they mean well.

Altogether, this movie provides comedic relief through a series of unfortunate events and shares a message of family bonding. If you are looking for a not-so-child-friendly laugh, and also love mushy family drama, definitely be sure to check out *Blockers*. ♦



DILBERT

by Scott Adams

WORDFIND

by Tyler Carney

THIS YEAR'S TEAM-BUILDING EVENT WILL BE A DANCE. NO ALCOHOL WILL BE SERVED.

THE EVENT IS FOR EMPLOYEES ONLY, AND YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO TOUCH EACH OTHER.

HAVE A GREAT TIME.

HOW?

UH-OH. I THINK WE ARE BEING ATTACKED BY AN ELBONIAN TROLL FARM.

THEY'RE ORGANIZING AN EMPLOYEE PROTEST AGAINST MANAGEMENT AND... A MANAGEMENT COUNTER-PROTEST AGAINST EMPLOYEES.

LUCKILY, NO ONE HERE IS STUPID ENOUGH TO...

DOWN WITH EMPLOYEES!

OUR COMPETITORS HIRED AN ELBONIAN TROLL FARM TO RUIN OUR BRAND ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

THEIR MOST VIRAL AD AGAINST US SO FAR SAYS, "HOW ICE CREAM THEY BICYCLE ART!"

HOW MANY VIEWS DID IT GET?

SEVEN, INCLUDING THIS ONE.

HOW CONSPIRACY THEORIES START

I CAN'T FIND MY SPREADSHEET FILES.

I SAW DILBERT GOING INTO THE SERVER ROOM.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANY...

CAROL SAID HE WAS MAD ABOUT SOMETHING YOU SAID.

CONTINUED...

HOW CONSPIRACY THEORIES HAPPEN

I THINK DILBERT IS TRYING TO RUIN MY CAREER.

CAROL SAID HE WAS MAD ABOUT SOMETHING I SAID, AND HE WAS IN THE SERVER ROOM RIGHT BEFORE I LOST MY FILES.

THIS MORNING HE SAID HE "HAD WORK TO DO."

OMG. HE ALREADY STARTED THE COVER-UP.

CONTINUED...

HOW CONSPIRACY THEORIES HAPPEN

ALICE SAYS YOU'RE TRYING TO COVER UP THE FACT THAT YOU DELETED HER FILES.

I DIDN'T DELETE HER FILES. YOU'RE BOTH INSANE.

WHAT DID HE SAY?

HE TRIED TO GASLIGHT ME. THAT PROVES HE'S GUILTY.

CONTINUED...

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

### Adjectives to describe your last sexual encounter

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

Adequate  
Average  
Bad  
Decent

Dreadful  
Excellent  
Good  
Great

Meager  
Modest  
Superb  
Terrible

Wonderful  
Wretched

### XKCD

by Randall Munroe

HEY!

OH, HI!

HOW MANY... APPLES... HAVE YOU EATEN?

...LIKE, IN MY LIFE?

YES.

...I SHOULD GO.

OK.

Normal human Conversation

1. Ask them about themselves

EVERYONE KEEPS TALKING ABOUT "PERSONAL DATA." TO BE HONEST, I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT IT IS. I MEAN, I UNDERSTAND THE IDEA AND KNOW IT'S A THING I SHOULD PROTECT. BUT IT'S SO... ABSTRACT.

YEAH. IT'S LIKE "THE ECONOMY." I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT THE ECONOMY IS IF WE'RE GETTING SPECIFIC. I KNOW STOCKS GOING UP IS GOOD, FOR PEOPLE WHO OWN STOCKS, AT LEAST. WHATEVER "STOCKS" ARE.

YEAH, OR TAXES. EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT TAXES. WHAT ARE THEY? DO I HAVE TO PAY THEM? AND TO WHO?

OK. WAIT. YOU DEFINITELY NEED TO LEARN ABOUT THAT ONE.

YEAH, IDEALLY SOMETIME IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

I'VE ACCIDENTALLY DISCOVERED THE WORLD'S MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO LEAK PERSONAL INFORMATION.

If you have any funny jokes, send them to [poly@rpi.edu](mailto:poly@rpi.edu) and they may be featured in *The Poly* next week!