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
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 our interests. Given their outcome’s significance and ability to set the course of the summer and even the career paths, and maybe along the way, find our calling in life, learn what our hobbies are, discover things about ourselves, build character, become independent, set up our career paths, 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 like 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.

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. We’d love to hear your feedback.
If you are unfamiliar with this project, preferred names would allow students to identify to the Registrar’s office 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 or 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 add or update their preferred name.

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!

Stef Warner
153rd Grand Marshal

 Derby Interested in E-Board? Applications are open

My name is Justin Etzine, and I am 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 non-legal name that I commonly use. This non-legal 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 or 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 add or update their non-legal name.

The applications 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 ps@rpi.edu!

Justin Etzine
129th President of the Union

Changing music habits

A few weeks ago, I stumbled across an article by Haley Nahman called, “I think I figured out why my headphones is coming from might be my own.” It talks about the ways that people nowadays consume information. Some people will fully follow artists or authors, becoming familiar with their entire work over time. 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 has been the same.

I was curious to see if the reason this resonated with me was that I fall firmly in the second category. Having played with the dates I started because I Jumbled 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 I like the line that gives me goose bumps, or the melody has a dip leading into a swell that gives me chills. But as soon as the playlists I make will give a song like “I’m Your Man” by Leonard Cohen, and follow it up immediately with “Pineapple” by The Avalanches, and then “Normal” by SashA Sloan—a combination with absolutely no clear rhyme or reason to it. Until now, I had never really thought about the fact 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 of full 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 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 lyrics to any of the songs 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.
GM and PU candidates share their views

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 Teyboul (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 McCullough (8)
6. Garrison 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. Clarisse Baes (413)
5. Jeanine Moreau (409)
6. Alexis Castrellan (389)
7. Grace Roller (7)

Greek Senator (Panhellenic Council)
1. Samantha Wong (45)

Greek Senators (Interfraternity Council)
1. Tomas Prevencher (607)

2021 President
1. Evan Lazaro (676)

2021 Vice President
1. Zachary Taylor (666)

2021 Senators
1. Jonathan Bao (468)
2. Advaith 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)

Brooklyn 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, enrollment 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.
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 at the local level. 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 better. "There is no silver bullet" and that "now is the time to try new and different approaches."

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

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.

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 race—for which there are four open seats—three people were listed on the ballot, and two write-in candidates were seen posterizing 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.
Polish holiday honored

Thursday, April 11, 2018

Features

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

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

Nicholas Luczak

Senior Reviewer

Shrugs and smirks—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 water guns. It is a little wet, too!

The average second or third generation Polish-American, and definitely didn’t stop people from having a good time. The celebration features students throwing colors and water at one another, having a good time.

Having a good time. The menu featured homemade kiełbasa, gołabki—which is a popular Polish dish of cabbage stuffed with meat—pierogi, kiełbasa soup, and some bar items like European-influenced tacos. Overall, the food was true to traditional Polish cuisine; the kiełbasa had its signature snap when you cut it into 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.

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.

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

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 was a big supporter of Gomez first; sources say that he was a big supporter of Gomez as the strugged with lupus. Although this song is slow, a majority of the album is layered with 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 listeners hooked to the ride and fall of the song. Altogether, while this mixtape may be 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

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 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.

Nestled 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, of most of the time, they mean well.

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


**DILBERT**

*by Scott Adams*

**WORDFIND**

*by Tyler Carney*

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

**Adjectives to describe your last sexual encounter**


Adequate
Average
Bad
Decent
Dreadful
Excellent
Meager
Superb
Wonderful
Average
Bad
Decent
Dreadful
Excellent
Meager
Superb
Terrible
Wretched

**XKCD**

*by Randall Munroe*

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