Students strut their stuff at the Black Student Alliance’s annual fashion show, which featured student performances by Charles Omore and Asah! Black. Outfits allowed students to exhibit their own styles, as well as those from local businesses, such as Eko Logic, Mario & Lee, and Topsy Curvy Boutique.
LIFE SUCKS. YOU WILL GO THROUGH PAIN, YOU WILL MAKE MISTAKES, AND YOU WILL GO THROUGH TIMES WHERE NOTHING SEEMS TO GO YOUR WAY. THAT’S LIFE, AND YOU’LL FEEL BAD AND FEEL SORRY FOR YOURSELF. AND I’m sorry to say that I have no advice for how you can stop this inevitability. Dating one person, getting that one dream job, or doing that one thing you always wanted to do will not make you a happy person. BUT, most of you know this already—if somehow you’ve managed to get this far in your life without coming to terms with this fact, I’m sorry. I won’t belabor this point, instead I will focus on my current understanding and what you should do with it. I put it shortly, I’m an advocate for hedonism.

Hedonism often conjures up images of wild orgies, substance abuse, frivolous spending habits, and general debauchery, but this doesn’t have to be the case. The type of hedonism I’m suggesting is one devoid of these stereotypes, oftentimes called responsible hedonism. Responsible hedonism is rooted in the ancient Grecian philosophy of Epicureanism. Epicurus claimed that life was full of pain and that the key to living a happy life is to avoid that pain at all costs by being honest with yourself about what makes you happy. He called this “avoidance of pain,” ataraxia. Epicurus believed that living a fulfilling life was about living pleasurably, but that all pleasures were not equal.

There are the higher pleasures and lower pleasures. Higher pleasures are ones which never wane in their ability to please; Epicurus claimed that these higher pleasures were rooted in intellectualism and the aesthetic. Have some friends who you can talk to, do some small things which you see improve the livelihoods of those in your community, and take some time to relax and think about the way you are living life—you might call this meditation. The pleasure of talking to people you care about, the gratification you get from doing something for someone else, and the wisdom you attain through self-contemplation are pleasures which—while they may take work—will reward you regardless.

On the other hand are the pleasures which are most often associated with hedonism. The lower pleasures are carnal and will eventually turn sour and detract from your happiness; these things include overindulgence in food, sex, power, and drugs. Once again, I will try to avoid being brute by explaining why these things will often come back to hurt you as most people have come to this understanding through experience. Epicurus claimed that by following those higher intellectual pleasures and by abstaining from indulging in too many carnal pleasures, we can avoid pain and be happier.

Epicurus’s system of happiness is definitely not perfect. I would argue that some of my most pleasurable moments have arisen from overcoming pain and adversity. Sadness and pain are signs that something good has ended; the only way you can feel pain is if something you cared deeply for has ended. If you were to follow Epicurus’s doctrine to the fullest degree, you might find yourself having never lived a fulfilling life.

But regardless of my qualms with Epicurus, his value system shouldn’t be ignored. When you find yourself feeling sad, take some time to evaluate if what you’ve been doing is going to let you avoid future pain. Do your work early because pushing it off to another time will not make it suck any less. Go to school because, even though it may suck now, you know that it’ll make you smarter and more comfortable later in life. Hang out with your friends and talk to them more about the things you find important because it’s the connections you make with people that really matter in the end.
GM shares excitement for new appointments

Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885, the Student Senate has been working to assemble an Election Reform Task Force, which worked to identify and implement adjustments that would be needed to accommodate the new schedule and curriculum. This task force will be reformed, and will be working to continue past efforts, while also expanding scope. If you have any ideas, questions, or concerns, please reach out to Meagan Lettko ‘19 at lettmk@rpi.edu or Advaith Narayan ‘21 at naraya5@rpi.edu.

At the last general meeting, on April 18, the Student Senate confirmed the appointments of all committee chairs and officers. I am excited to announce that Meagan Lettko has been confirmed as vice grand marshal, Colleen Corrigan ‘21 as parliamentarian, Reed Freeman ‘19 as secretary, Christopher Pybus ‘18 as treasurer, and Crochiere ‘19 as Senate-Executive Board liaison and Union Annual Report Committee chair, Amisha Agawal ‘20 as Academic Affairs Committee chair, Nancy Bush ‘19 as Facilities and Services Committee chair, Advaith Narayan as Hospitality Services Advisory Committee chair, Zachary Taylor ‘21 as Elections Commission chair, Bryan Johns ‘19 as Student Life chair, Isabella Arroyo ‘20 as Community Relations Committee chair, Mathew Aliotta ‘19 as Student Government Communications Committee chair, and Grace Roller ‘20 as Web Technologies Committee chair.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns or if you want to get involved, feel free to reach out to me at gm@rpi.edu!

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ON-CAMPUS EVENT

Second annual Lupus Walk for finding a cure

Pragati Pant
Senior Reviewer

ON-CAMPUS EVENT

Club founder showcases talent at final event

ON-CAMPUS EVENT

Save our pretty planet

This past Friday, The RPI Student Sustainability Task Force held Earth Fest, a celebration of the beautiful planet we live on. The event had an overall atmosphere of relaxation and acceptance. While the weather most certainly wasn’t the warmest, there were still plenty of students stopping by and taking part in the event.

The event had multiple free activities. In one activity, attendees were able to paint a pot for a spider plant. Another activity involved making tote bags out of recycled old t-shirts and tie dying; this was pretty neat to watch, and was representative of the many resources we take for granted that can serve multiple purposes. All activities took place on the Union patio with a jamming playlist running in the background. Additionally, the Senate Sustainability Committee was inviting and very friendly towards any passersby.

In addition to Earth Fest, SSTF held a cleanup on Earth Day this past Sunday. It was a great way for students to get involved with cleaning up the local neighborhood. Events like these are beneficial to the local community, and really show that students care about their campus and its surroundings. If you are interested in sustainability around campus, definitely be sure to check out the cool events SSTF puts on throughout the semester!
IN THEIR SECOND MEETING, THE NEW STUDENT SENATE CONFIRMED Grand Marshal Stef Warner '19’s senatorial position appointments.

The Senate also voted in favor of amendments to the Undergraduate Council Bylaws. The amendment was proposed to allow for more open communication between the Undergraduate Council and the Senate through a liaison position. The role is a non-voting, representative position which exists to increase communication between the two governing bodies. The amendment passed 16-0-2.

The final business for the night was to approve changes to the Undergraduate Council Bylaws. The amendment was proposed to allow for more open communication between the Undergraduate Council and the Senate through a liaison position. The role is a non-voting, representative position which exists to increase communication between the two governing bodies. The amendment passed 16-0-2.

The Senate holds their meetings every Wednesday at 8 pm on the third floor of the Union.
Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885

DILBERT

by Scott Adams

TOP TEN

Ways to prep for finals

10. Wing it
9. Cram the night before
8. Séance
7. Just don’t look
6. 4/20 24/7
5. Adhere to the academic integrity policy
4. Re-evaluate your life choices
3. Stay “hydrated”
2. Accidentally drop $50 on professor’s desk
1. Actually study and do well on your exams

Good luck on your exams!

Joke Corner

by Weston Brousseau

Why did the half blind man fall into a well?

He couldn’t see.

-vertighost23

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

Strong should retract claims

This past week, student government dealt with the fallout of the reckless and irresponsible decision of Interim Vice President for Student Life LeNorman Strong to inform the Rensselaer community of what he claimed were concerns from anonymous students regarding the recently-concluded GM Week 2018 Elections. I contend that his decision to send the email last Tuesday was reckless and irresponsible because he did not allow the Elections Commission to make a decision before releasing his statement. Of greatest concern, he falsely stated that the Rensselaer Union Voting Suite was compromised.

The scant evidence he had for that bold claim was the fact that he signed onto the homepage of the Voting Suite a few times during the day at the expressed request of the Elections Commission. While he did not directly identify me to the masses, anyone with knowledge of the relevant facts can easily deduce he was talking about me in his quote about the system being “accessed by multiple students at multiple times during the day while voting was underway, certain of whom were connected to candidates standing for election.” In fact, many of my peers—including a reporter from The Poly—immediately identified me and questioned my involvement, as if I had somehow violated their trust.

What he did not say is that the only information I could have viewed was the contents of the ballot and the number of students that voted throughout the day. All other information regarding elections results and standings was hidden behind a password—set by the Chairman of the Elections Commission upon the creation of the election—to which I was not privy. Furthermore, while at work at my co-op, I would not have access to the database of votes, as access to that database requires you to be connected to the Rensselaer network. By the time I got home, I emailed the Commission and the Lead Union Software Engineer Jed Tranate ’18 took away that access for me. The Poly’s quote about the system being “accessed by multiple students at multiple times during the day” is factually incorrect. The elections commission must be based on the preferred name—maybe with nicknames in parentheses.

As an alumnus, I hope that the administration will ignore preferences based on the platforms of the candidates for president of the Union and accept the vote of the students. Liking the results is irrelevant. I further hope that none of the following occurs.

Holding a new election early in the Fall Term. This is the only time a new election could take place. However, incoming freshmen have neither been on campus long enough to know the issues, nor have had significant interaction with students not approved by the administration. Harassing students involved in the election, especially the Election Commission and the newly elected grand marshal and president of the Union during the remainder of the Spring term and over the Summer by requiring extensive meetings and correspondence. Distracting them, from end-of-the-term studying is wrong, especially given the GPA requirement for holding office. Distracting them during the Summer is either similar or could cause financial hardship (travel and time away from employment).

I feel it is bad that the administration is reducing the authority of student government. Interfering with student government elections is even worse.

David Raab ’19

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Student elections disrespected

“Smells rotten”: Administrators meet with Elections Commission “says it all. The rotten smell is due to several odor contributors.

First, the Elections Commission was summoned to meet with Vice President Strong. Second, the comments made by Institute Administrators regarding the integrity of the newly elected president of the Union and former grand marshal. Third, the comments made regarding Joey/Josephine Lyons. The Poly Editorial Board hit it on the head when they said it is up to the next Student Senate—and thus implying not the Administration—to ensure problems which occurred would not happen again.

The first odor contributor shows that Vice President Strong has no respect for student government. Were there any formal challenges filed with the Electoral Commission—the Poly did not mention any. Any decisions of the Electoral Commission can be appealed to the Judicial Board, then to the Review Board and then to the president. Circumventing this process stinks.

The second odor contributor is a conclusion without evidence that the election should be invalidated because of the actions of the newly elected president of the Union while he was grand marshal. Based on comments made by institute administrators and the newly elected president of the Union, there is not enough evidence to warrant an investigation of wrong-doing, let alone concluding the alleged wrong-doing affected the results of the election. It was definitely a landslide.

The combined odor of the above was then supplemented by what could be called an unpleasant smelling spice. The only candidate for a given position was listed by two names. I think the best solution here is to build on the newly elected Grand Marshal’s preferred name initiative. All petitions must be based on the preferred name—maybe with nicknames in parentheses.

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Mark A. Palmer ’87, ’95 PhD

Correction:

In the editorial piece “Privatized military overdue for change,” Erik Prince’s plan to send 5,500 private mercenaries to Afghanistan was written as if it was currently being considered by President Trump. While this was true in August, the plan was thrown out after intervention by Herbert McMaster, Rex Tillerson and Jim Mattis. Trump’s current plan calls for an increase in troop presence in Afghanistan.

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Terra Café presents

Gyro Bar

with Green Greeks

Local & organic
Meat or vegan entrée

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at EMPAC level 5000 on Wednesday April 25 from 11a - 3p
Imagination Destination granted $4,000

THE ROEBLING INVESTMENT GROUP EXPLAINED that their purpose is to cultivate an interest in finance.

Darby Burns
Senior Reporter

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Imagination Destination granted $4,000

Darby Burns
Senior Reporter

In the meeting of the Executive Board on April 17, Roebling Investment Group and She’s the First were approved as a Union affiliated clubs, Destination Imagination was approved funds for globals, the Multicultural Leadership Council was approved as a committee, and Pride Alliance was approved as a committee, originally meant for their drag show to a barbecue and the purchase of board games.

The meeting had a delayed start as the Board struggled to get enough members present to achieve quorum. Once it was reached, the rest of the meeting progressed relatively smoothly.

The first motion of the evening was to approve Roebling Investment Group’s affiliation. The group was student-formed and in its seventh year of existence with the purpose of cultivating an interest in finance for students. During their presentation, members of the club explained that there isn’t much support for students who are interested in finance and that they want to pursue that so they hope to fill that void.

When asked why the club is asking for recognition now, the group said they have felt very separate and “detached” from the rest of the Union and would like to fix that. They also said that with their growing membership it feels inappropriate to continue without at least looking for affiliation. The reason that they didn’t affiliate when the club first started was because at that point it only consisted of five members.

The motion to affiliate the Roebling Investment Group was approved 11-0-2.

The club, She’s the First, also came before the Board looking for Union affiliation. They will be a chapter of the larger international organization of the same name. They planned they have felt very separate and “detached” from the rest of the Union and would like to fix that. They also said that with their growing membership it feels inappropriate to continue without at least looking for affiliation. The reason that they didn’t affiliate when the club first started was because at that point it only consisted of five members.

The motion to affiliate She’s the First as a Union affiliated club was passed 12-0-1.

Destination Imagination came before the board requesting funds for them to attend and participate in the Global Finals in Knoxville, Tennessee. They participated in the state’s tournament and as a result qualified for Globals. The presenting members broke down their request into three main budget items. The first was registration, which covers everything there, including housing and food. The second was providing vans to serve as transportation to the event and the third was two hotel nights, one on the way down and one on the way back.

The original motion was to reallocate $4,100 from travel contingencies, but that number was amended to be $4,000 because there is a $4,000 limit for how much money the E-Board can give for national competitions that requires a two-thirds majority vote to surpass.

The motion to reallocate $4000 from travel contingencies to Destination Imagination for the Global Finals passed 12-0-1.

At the beginning of the discussion the motion to amend the Rensselaer Union Club Classifications failed 0-11-1.

The Multicultural Leadership Council came seeking to become a temporary committee of the Board. They explained that they want to give multicultural groups better representation in the Union and exist to provide resources and help with diversity on campus. As a temporary committee, they would report on their work and other multicultural clubs affairs and bridge gaps and facilitate workshops on diversity and inclusion.

The organization of the club consists of seven students that are selected by an interview process and that, as a committee, they would have an eighth member approved by the E-Board. Their meetings are open to everyone, however only the core seven have voting rights. The club was seeking to become a temporary committee in order for there to be a trial period where the best relationship between the MLC and the E-Board would be figured out.

The majority of the discussion from the Board came from worries about the restriction to only seven voting members and concerns about the idea of the MLC being a temporary committee to allow for a trial period. It was explained that by becoming a committee they would have to comply with E-Board bylaws requiring a chair as well as open meetings. It was also explained that they were promised by an unnamed person that they could come before the Board in September and that they have felt like they have been falling through the cracks. Allowing them to become a temporary committee, would act as a sort of “olive branch.”

The motion passed 11-1-1.

The final motion to come before the Board was to allow Rensselaer Pride Alliance to transfer funds that were originally allocated to their Drag Show which was canceled to a Barbecue and the purchasing of Board games for the club. There was some talk from the Board about the amount requested for the games that wouldn’t be required to be shared with everyone, however it was pointed out that sometimes clubs need to have stuff that is theirs that they can access at any time.

Both motion to reallocate $256.94 to RPA’s purchase of board games and the motion to reallocate $475.75 for an RPA barbecue passed 12-0-1.

JUDICIAL BOARD DECISION

‘2018 GM Week election results are valid’

Darby Burns
Brookelyn Parslow Senior Reporters

“In summary, the 2018 GM Week election results are valid, and there is no need to run a new election,” wrote the Judicial Board in an email sent to members of the Union on Sunday.

The Board met and found there to be no evidence of any misconduct by any candidates or their assistants. It did note a “number of procedural oversights,” but concluded that their effect on the elections was “likely minor.”

It addressed and voted on a number of problems, including the amendments not being included on the ballot, voting starting late, a write-in candidate appearing on the ballot, duplicate names, the voting system being compromised, the early release of the elections results, and the failure to consistently check voter identification at polling sites. While it determined that there was no reason for further concerns regarding the validity of the elections with respect to these issues, the J-Board was “concerned” by the Commission’s decision to abandon the precedent of checking student identification via scanners or Commission members.

A full write-up of their decisions can be found at poly.rpi.edu/jborde.

All 2018 Elections were certified by the Elections Commission as valid 3-2.