

Fashion show awe-inspiring



Crystal Vejar/The Polytechnic

STUDENTS STRUT their stuff at the Black Student Alliance's annual fashion show, which featured student performances by Charles Omore and Asoh! 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.



Wednesday,
April 25, 2018
Volume CXXXVIII,
No. 27

NEWS

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**Senate appointments pass
without a hitch**

NEWS

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**Investment group now
Union-affiliated**

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Luczak Life is pain but you
can make it better

Justin
Etzine New members wel-
comed to Board

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

How hedonism can make you happier

LIFE SUCKS. YOU WILL GO THROUGH PAIN, YOU WILL MAKE mistakes, and you will go through times where nothing seems fair and you just want to lay in bed and feel sorry for yourself. And I’m sorry to say that I have no advice for how you can stop this inevitability. Dating that 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 how I deal with it. To 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 trite 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. ♦



Nicholas
Luczak
Contributing Editor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Title IX issues should be on prospectives’ radar

DEAR POTENTIAL STUDENTS:

Congratulations on being accepted to RPI! Your academic achievements thus far are certainly exceptional, and I am sure that your success makes the process of choosing a college a difficult one. That being said, if you are a woman and are considering RPI, I urge you to consider your options.

This is not a warning about the rigor of the courses, the crazy New York weather, or even the ratio. This is a warning about archaic practices in the realm of sexual misconduct on a college campus. This is a warning that the odds are stacked against you if you choose to report a sexual assault at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. This is a warning that, if you choose RPI and have the unfortunate circumstance requiring that you report a Title IX offense, you will likely not succeed. Even when you report an incident of sexual misconduct, the resources made available to you are scarce. The counseling center does not have enough appointments for the people seeking them, and the protections put in place to make the complainant feel safer are easily broken. Victims have been known to suffer in clubs with their attackers because there would be no official decision made on removing either party from the club or even actions taken to ensure the safety of a victim during the investigation. Now that my time at RPI has come to an end, I wish that I had been at a school that placed more importance on my safety and well-being. Out of my four closest friends, three of us have experienced sexual assault and/or harassment while being on this campus. Only one of us had a reasonable experience with the Title IX office, and it was due to the rare occurrence of a witness. The other two cases took over six months to complete, and the outcomes were skewed towards the perpetrator. I could be called biased—as these three women are my close friends—but, after knowing the intimate details of these cases and the experiences of others on campus, RPI should have had no other options besides finding fault in the respondents’ actions.

My friends are not alone in their injustice. The Title IX reporting process has been questioned by many on campus, leading to questions at the president’s semesterly town meeting and an investigation from the Office of Civil Rights. RPI’s own Institute council, when asked about the open Office of Civil Rights investigations—that’s right, multiple investigations—at the town meeting last month, said that the cases

being brought forth don’t matter. The vice president of human resources made odd comments about the ongoing Title IX investigation at that same town hall, stating that “[RPI] took action against the individual who perpetrated that act; however, the complainant was not satisfied with that, so I feel good that the university did what it needed to do in this regard.” He went on to dismiss the concerns brought forth by the complainant regarding a lack of response by the Institute, ignored the Office of Civil Rights investigation, and stated “I think it was very prudent what we did, and I’m pleased we took the correct action.” Rensselaer’s officials are actively involved in victim blaming, isolating the multitude of complainants on campus. Rensselaer continuously displays no respect or care for the students on this campus that are dealing with sensitive matters covered under Title IX.

I urge you to carefully consider your choices and go to a school that listens to you and handles the Title IX process with fairness, respect, and dignity. Rensselaer is not alone in it’s horrendous Title IX process. Consider a school not only looking out for your future self, but also your future roommates, classmates, and friends. Consider your values and the realities of college campuses across the nation. Please, consider your options.

Hannah Merrow
Alumni Vice President
Class of 2018

the polytechnic

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The Polytechnic will hold elections on
April 29 at 3 pm in RU 3418.

TOP HAT

GM shares excitement for new appointments

Hi, ENGINEERS! I HOPE YOU ARE ALL HAVING SUCCESS IN WRAPPING up any projects or assignments, and that studying isn't causing you too much stress! With the semester quickly coming to an end, and finals right around the corner, I hope that you are able to take a break from work, and the stress of being an RPI student, and enjoy this well-overdue beautiful weather.

With the recent Judicial Board decision regarding the GM Week 2018 Elections and the Elections Commission releasing a statement regarding general concerns of the recent election, it is uplifting to see that all of the commotion is beginning to settle down. While the elections were deemed valid, by no means did they run smoothly. I believe that it is important to reflect on the recent elections, identify all issues, and create solutions so that the 2022 freshman elections are stress-free, efficient, and secure this Fall semester. With that being said, the Student Senate has been working to assemble an Elections Reform Task Force. This task force is responsible for identifying and addressing the issues that we saw during this past election cycle, while also highlighting aspects that

we believe worked well, and could be beneficial in the future. If you have any ideas, questions, or concerns, please reach out to Joseph Lyon the Elections Reform Task Force lead., at lyonj4@rpi.edu



Stef Warner
Grand Marshal

In addition, last semester, former Vice Grand Marshal Ellie Mees '18 led the Summer Arch 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 lettkm@rpi.edu or Advait Narayan '21 at naraya5@rpi.edu.

At the last general meeting, on April 18, the 49th 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, Mary Clare

Crochiere '19 as Senate-Executive Board liaison and Union Annual Report Committee chair, Anusha Agarwal '20 as Academic Affairs Committee chair, Nancy Bush '19 as Facilities and Services Committee chair, Advait 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. I am very excited for the year ahead, especially for what we will accomplish for the benefit of the student body.

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!



Stef Warner
153rd Grand Marshal

DERBY

Introducing new Executive Board members

HELLO, RPI!

Tonight, appointees for the 2018-19 Rensselaer Union Executive Board will come before the Student Senate for confirmation voting! We saw over 40 student applications to the Executive Board this year, and I am blown away by the experience, passion, and determination each of the applicants had. As these exceptional students will hopefully be serving as your representatives for the coming year, I wanted to take a moment to introduce each of them to you and give you some insight into their contributions to campus so far!

Benjamin Volk has served as a volunteer firefighter for 5 years, has 4 years in the workforce, and played a budgeting role in his community college before transferring to RPI. Having served on the Executive Board for two years, Anissa Choiniere has focused on creating and revising policies for E-Board operations and club procedures. Prior to attending RPI and serving a year on the E-Board, Andrew Walter spent a gap year in Europe, where he founded a non-profit organization named International Acts of Kindness, and he has a strong passion for risk management. John Jacangelo, a PhD student in the mathematics department, is serving as first lieutenant for RPI Ambulance and was heavily

involved in student life and activities at his undergraduate alma mater, SUNY Buffalo.

Brian Mansaku has served on the E-Board over the past year, where he has worked to leave a positive impact on campus and the Union through serving on the Board, and serves as risk manager for his fraternity, Sigma Chi. Justina Thompson has played a number of roles across campus, including serving as vice president for RPI Ambulance, working closely with student life, and will soon be a resident assistant in the upcoming school year. Christine Magunga serves as the treasurer for the recently-established African Students Association, and she is working to establish strong relationships with members of the Union administrative staff.

Cody Kazakoff is a management student with planned coterminal study in business analytics, who serves as the president of the Lally Management Students Association and has held internship roles working with financial planning. Rachel Antmann has recently been elected president of Habitat for Humanity at RPI, and she previously served as vice president of

finance for the group. Charles Omoregbee was recently elected to an officer position in the Black Students Alliance and has a passion for creating, recording, and performing his own music locally.

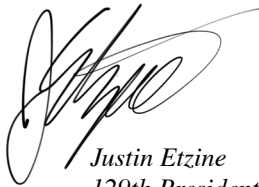
Gabrielle Gentile has gotten involved with the Resident Students Association by serving as chairwoman of the Barton Hall Council this year, and she also serves as director of continuous open bidding for Alpha Phi. Ryan Delaney joined the Board at the start of this year, and he has worked to build strong and productive relationships with the clubs he has worked with. Vish Gopalakrishnan was recently elected executive vice president of the Interfraternity Council, and has served as vice president of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity over the past two years.

Having been involved in UPAC throughout his time at RPI, Andrew Kiselik has served as chairman of the GM Week Committee, resident assistant for this school year, and will be serving as a resident director next year. Rida Rahman has gotten involved her freshman year through the Women in Nuclear, American Nuclear Society, and the Women Mentoring Program.

The Undergraduate Council's pick, David Raab, is no stranger to student government, having served on the Executive Board over the past year and leading the Elections Commission through the GM Week 2017 elections cycle. Finally, the Student Senate's pick, Mary Clare Crochiere, has served as a Senator over the past year and has been involved in the Student Life Committee since her sophomore year.

Tonight, these appointees—excluding the Senate, UC, and GC appointed members—will come before the Student Senate for confirmation, and I am excited to see the questions they answer. I am very impressed with their extensive experiences, and I'm very excited for the year ahead with this Board!

Like always, if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out at pu@rpi.edu!



Justin Etzine
129th President of the Union



Justin Etzine
President of the Union

Poly Snapshots

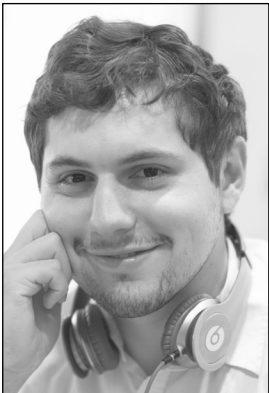
Photos and interviews by Crystal Vejar

The Question:

What do you like to do when the weather is nice?



Mary Margaret Sta. Cruz
CHEG '19
"Skip class and be outside."



Mario Medina
MECL '19
"Drive away to the horizon."



Ariana Gerdis
ELEC '20
"My favorite place to avoid my problems is outside."



Nguyen Huynh
CHEG '19
"Stay inside and cry about lab reports."



Matt Scheffer
MECL '20
"Not think about my problems."

Features

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

ON-CAMPUS EVENT

Second annual Lupus Walk for finding a cure

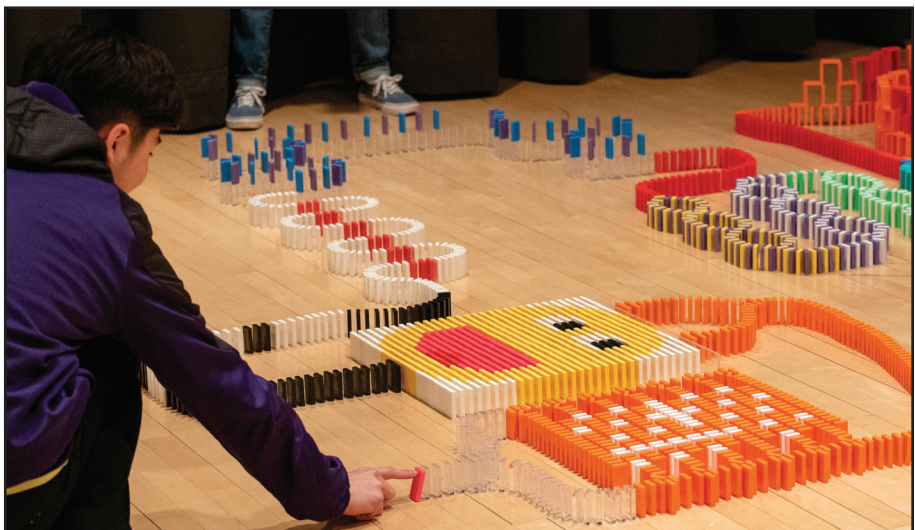
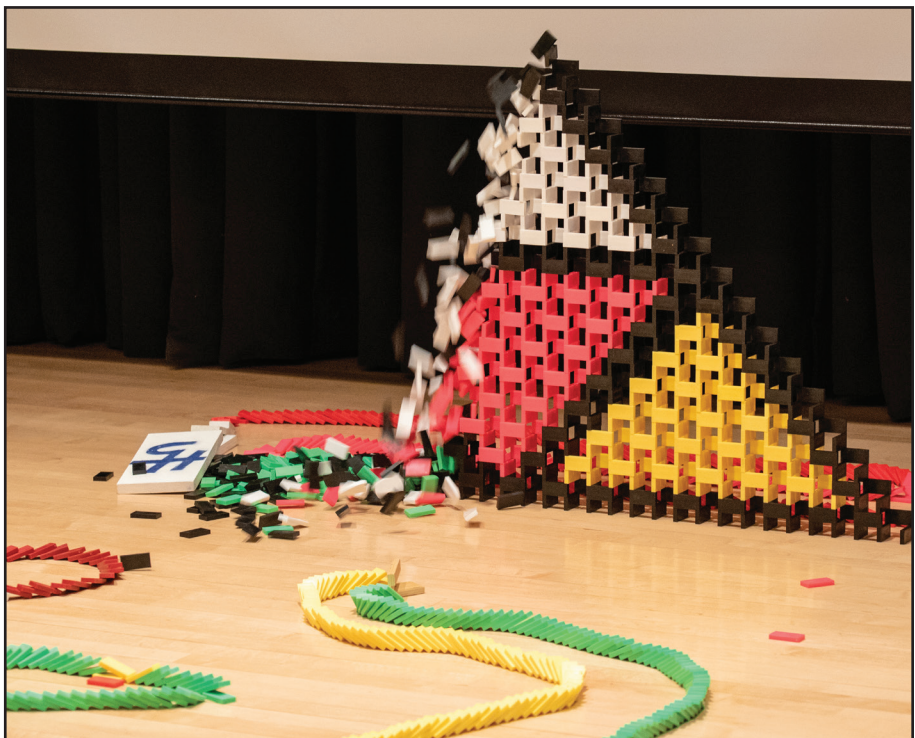


Crystal Vejar/The Polytechnic

THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE STUDENT SENATE HOSTED and organized an event focused around raising awareness and finding a cure for lupus, which featured local vendors, restaurants, and a raffle.

ON-CAMPUS EVENT

Club founder showcases talent at final event



Crystal Vejar/The Polytechnic

LILY HEVESH '21 ANNOUNCED that she would be leaving Rensselaer to pursue domino toppling full-time, but not before ensuring that the club would be left in good hands.

ON-CAMPUS EVENT

Save our pretty planet

Pragati Pant
Senior Reviewer

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!

STUDENT SENATE

Commitee chair appointments confirmed

Nicholas Luczak
Senior Reporter

THE STUDENT SENATE MET TO CONFIRM Grand Marshal Stef Warner '19's appointments to various senatorial positions including vice grand marshal, parliamentarian, secretary, and all other necessary roles. In addition to the appointment of new members, the Senate also voted in favor of amendments to the *Undergraduate Council Bylaws*. The Senate went into new business after a few quick committee and peer body reports were made. The first motion of the night was for the appointment of Meagan Lettko '20 as vice grand marshal. Lettko served as a class of 2020 senator for the past year and was reelected for another term in the most recent election. She served on the Academic Reforms Committee and was involved in the director of the Union hiring process. Lettko was appointed to the position with a vote of 14-0-3.

Followed by the appointment of vice grand marshal, the senate voted unanimously to appoint Colleen Corrigan '21 as parliamentarian, Reed Freeman '19 as secretary, Christopher Pybus '18 as treasurer, Mary Clare Crochiere '19 as Senate-Executive Board liaison, Anusha Agarwal '20 as Academic Affairs chair, and Nancy Bush '19 as Facilities and Services chair. Advait Narayan '21 was appointed to lead the Hospitality Services Advisory Committee. Narayan said that, after a semester of opening up



Nicholas Luczak/The Polytechnic

IN THEIR SECOND MEETING, THE NEW STUDENT SENATE CONFIRMED Grand Marshal Stef Warner '19's senatorial position appointments.

communications with students inquiring about the quality of services provided by Sodexo, he would follow up by finishing projects like the Blue Apron food plan and working to get more feedback. After some conversation about the upcoming renewal of the contract for food services, it was determined that it would be unreasonable for Narayan to take a stance, as choosing a contract is not up to the committee. Narayan was appointed as committee chair with a vote of 15-0-3. Zachary Taylor's '21 appointment to Elections Commission chair passed

15-0-3 after some deliberation about the future of Rensselaer's elections. Taylor admitted that while the previous election did not go very smoothly, a lot of the issues stemmed from poor preparation and lack of interest. Taylor said that he would change things this semester by making sure that there were enough people involved in the committee to ensure a good job would be done, and that he would be working with System Administrators and the Web Technologies group well in advance to ensure a smooth election. When asked about election results

being leaked, Taylor said that he aims to work with administrators to ensure that the only person who can access election results is either the elections commissioner or someone who is approved by them. Taylor was approved by the Senate with a 15-0-3 vote. The remaining appointments of Bryan Johns '19 as Student Life chair, Isabella Arroyo '20 as Community Relations chair, Mathew Aliotta '19 as Student Government Communications chair, and Grace Roller '20 as Web Technologies chair passed unanimously.

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. ♦

TAKE
CHARGE
OF YOUR
SAFETY.

1

Complete active shooter training online

Learn the **RUN-HIDE-FIGHT** approach and emergency response protocols including what to expect from law enforcement responders, Rensselaer's Department of Public Safety, and **RPIAlert** communications.

» Visit bit.ly/2G1Dr7S to complete training.

2

Sign Up for RPIAlert

RPIAlert is an urgent mass notification system utilized by Rensselaer to notify campus constituents of an active, major campus emergency. Notifications include text, voice, and email messages.

» Visit alert.rpi.edu to sign up or to verify and update your information.

3

Be aware of the on-campus active shooter training exercise on Tuesday, May 1

The safety of the campus community is our top priority. To test our emergency management protocols, Rensselaer will conduct an active shooter training exercise on campus Tuesday, May 1.

Rensselaer

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 that well.

-vertighost23

WHICH ONE OF THE ENGINEERING CANDIDATES SHOULD I HIRE?

BOTH ARE HIGHLY EXPERIENCED, BUT ONE HAS A TERRIBLE PERSONALITY.

SOUNDS LIKE A PERFECT FIT.

I TOLD HIM TO EXPECT AN OFFER.

I'M NOT AN ENGINEER, SO THIS MIGHT BE A DUMB QUESTION.

BUT WHY CAN'T WE 3-D PRINT A BLOCKCHAIN AND HTML IT INTO A BITCOIN?

ALICE CAN ANSWER THAT.

I QUIT.

YOU FOOL! THAT WEB PAGE IS NOT DESIGNED THE WAY I WOULD HAVE DONE IT!

AND I NEVER WOULD HAVE EXPLAINED IT THIS WAY!

LASTLY, I WANT YOU TO SHOW MORE INITIATIVE.

ARE YOU STILL HERE?

DOGBERT'S CRYOGENIC INVESTMENT FIRM

WE'LL FREEZE YOUR BRAIN FOR 200 YEARS AND THEN TRANSPLANT IT INTO A 3-D PRINTED BODY.

BY THEN, YOUR INVESTMENTS WILL BE WORTH A FORTUNE.

IS THERE ANY RISK TO MY BRAIN?

YOU'LL HAVE AN IQ OF 45, BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER WHEN YOU'RE RICH.

DOGBERT'S CRYOGENIC INVESTMENT ADVICE

WE'LL REMOVE YOUR BRAIN AND FREEZE IT UNTIL YOUR INVESTMENTS ARE WORTH A FORTUNE.

DOES IT HURT?

TOTALLY PAINLESS.

AAAAGH! IT HURTS!

OH. I THOUGHT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT ME.

BEING THE OWNER OF A CRYOGENIC INVESTMENT FIRM IS A LOT OF WORK.

SO INSTEAD OF KEEPING MY CUSTOMERS' BRAINS FROZEN, I DECIDED TO TOSS THEM IN THE RIVER AND HOPE NO ONE NOTICES.

THE BEST KIND OF CUSTOMERS ARE THE ONES WHO CAN'T WRITE BAD YELP! REVIEWS.

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

Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885

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 I 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 insignificant level of access before the polls closed. That set of facts was independently confirmed by the Judicial Board and the Elections Commission during their separate hearings.

Therefore, I call on Mr. Strong to issue a public retraction of his false claims. It would be unfortunate if his legacy as Interim Vice President was tarnished by this sinister and calculated act to discredit a legitimately-elected student government.

David Raab ’19

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.

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.

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.


facebook.com/TerraCafeRPI

Terra Café presents

Gyro Bar

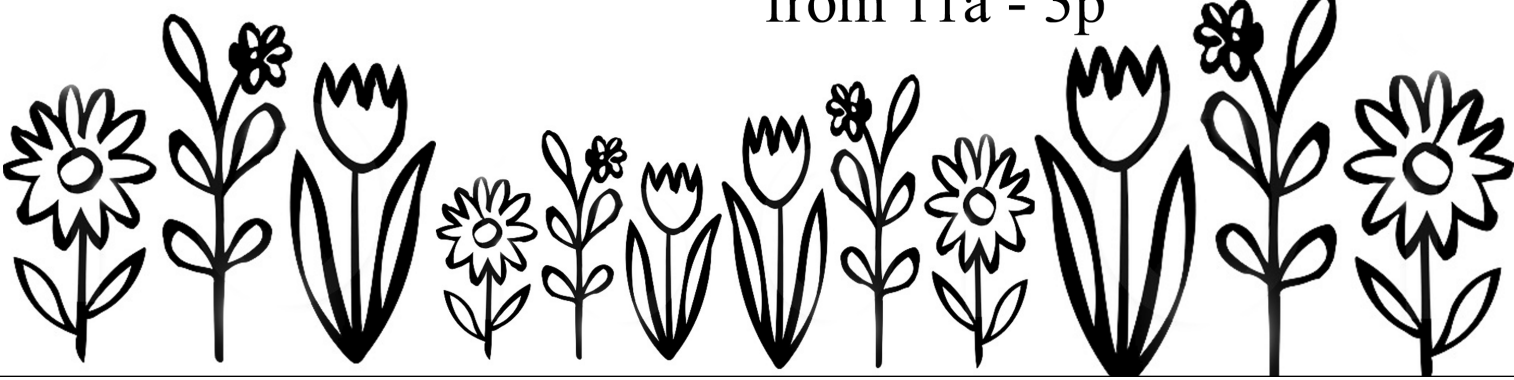
with Green Greeks

Local & organic
Meat or vegan entrée



\$8 by Flex, RAD,
card, or cash

at EMPAC level 5000
on Wednesday April 25
from 11a - 3p



EXECUTIVE BOARD

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 to transfer funds 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 responded 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, which raises money to support girls who will be the first in their families to graduate high school. When asked about more specifics on what the national organization does, they explained that usually each chapter usually focuses on one girl at a time and pays for her school supplies and tuition.

When asked about their low attendance at meetings, they explained that they are currently

trying to find a time that's easy enough for everyone to make. They also said that they are getting more people every day and at the time of their presentation were up to a total of 25 members and had experienced a fair amount of interest from prospective students.

They also addressed the issue of what they will receive from the national organization. They explained that they had just gotten recognition from them and received a starter constitution and a contact that they have been emailing with. They also said that the national organization will provide them with a website and possible fundraiser ideas, however it will not provide them with any actual funds.

The motion to approve She's the One as a Union affiliated club 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 Globals Finals passed 12-0-1.

At the beginning of the discussion on the motion to amend the Rensselaer Union Club Classifications, a motion was made to postpone the discussion until next meeting so that the policy committee could have time to figure out all the details on the policy. After some discussion, the Board decided that the best way to do this was to fail the original motion because there would be so many changes that it would be simpler to write a new one next week. Following that



Nicholas Luczak / The Polytechnic

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

decision, the motion to postpone failed 0-11-1 and 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 would help to 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 \$236.94 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'

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"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 Judicial 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 previous precedent of checking student identification via scanners or Commission members.

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

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