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SAVE THE UNION

Rounds instructs poster removal

Public Safety and grounds workers recorded tearing down student posters



Courtesy of RPI TV

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS AND OTHER INSTITUTE EMPLOYEES REMOVED posters related to the Save the Union student movement during Accepted Students Day this past Saturday.

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reporter

MID-MORNING ON SATURDAY, APRIL 9, RPI TV and members of the Save the Union movement discovered posters relating to the movement were being removed from buildings by officers of the RPI Department of Public Safety.

When confronted by students about the poster removal, an officer said, "It's coming from the top. We gotta take them down. It's the way it's gotta be."

In audio clips posted by /u/saveourunion on Reddit, officers provided a variety of reasons for the posters' removal, including the need for posters to be stamped, a sudden and temporary change to the sign policy, and an explanation that the change was solely because of Accepted Students Day.

In video clips from RPI TV, both Public Safety officers and employees from RPI Environmental and Site Services are seen tearing down multiple

posters related to the Save the Union movement.

For clarification of the events that transpired this past Saturday, *The Poly* sat down for an interview with Vice President for Administration Claude Rounds, who ordered the removal of the Save the Union posters.

Rounds wanted to dispel the rumor that the *Student Handbook of Rights and Responsibilities* had been suspended. "The administration did not suspend the handbook ... in fact, we followed

the *Handbook*," said Rounds, regarding the procedure followed when removing the posters.

Feedback from Public Safety and other sources indicated that there was a significant increase in signs being placed on campus, which warranted action. They were alerted by students that, instead of protesting Accepted Students Day, they would be putting up more signs relating to Save the Union across campus. Rounds took this as "an alert to us that we needed to be more vigilant in terms of the sign ordinance and what was in compliance and what was in violation."

The Poly asked if it would have been a better outcome for the Save the Union individuals to not alert anyone that they would be increasing their poster efforts. "To suggest that as Saturday went by they could poster the campus and not have that noticed by one of the many people, not just Public Safety ... do I think somebody else would have observed and reported this? I would expect so," said Rounds.

The signs that were removed were in violation of the sign policy, as defined in the *Student Handbook*. Section three, subsection A, part two says that "outdoor signs must

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GM WEEK 2016 ELECTIONS

R&E decisions reversed

Justin Etzine
Senior Reporter

AT LEAST 15 CANDIDATES WERE TO BE OMITTED from the final ballot for Grand Marshal Week 2016 Elections as a result of two decisions released by the Rules and Elections Committee on Sunday, April 10.

The first decision involved preliminary candidate expense forms. The forms are listed in the *GM Week 2016 Handbook* as being due on Friday, April 8 at 5 pm for all candidates, regardless of whether or not they had any expenses at the time of submission.

On Sunday, April 10, R&E Chairman Victoria Tong '16 had issued a preliminary decision stating that the deadline for the expense forms would be extended until 5 pm on Sunday. According to Section 12.6 of the *Handbook*, the chairman can issue preliminary decisions, but the committee must ratify or overturn the decision within 24 hours.

Later that day, R&E voted to overturn Tong's ruling and approved a decision removing any candidate that failed to turn in the forms by the deadline from the final ballot. This ruling included President of the Union candidate Shannon Gillespie McComb '17, as well as a number of other candidates.

Shortly after *Decision 1* was released, the committee issued a second decision relating to

nomination forms. In a similar vein to the first decision, the second decision detailed R&E's overturning of a preliminary ruling by Tong allowing candidates to turn in nomination forms until Sunday, April 10.

The same action was enacted for candidates who did not submit a sufficient number of nominations by Friday, April 8 at 5 pm. This ruling affected PU candidate Liam McEaney '17, who had fewer than 300 nominations of the 600 required by the Friday deadline.

As a result of the removal of two PU candidates from the ballot, the primary debates and election were canceled, as primary elections are only warranted when the number of candidates running is over twice the number of position openings; in the case of the PU, at least three candidates are needed to warrant a primary.

On Monday, April 11, after several hours of appeals, R&E released four more decisions.

Decision 3 overturned *Decision 1*, and *Decision 4* ruled that any candidate who turned in a late preliminary expense form, or none at all, is barred from any further poster-ing and must remove all existing posters by 12 pm on Tuesday.

Decision 5 proactively warned candidates that anyone who does not turn in a final expense form by Wednesday at 5 pm will not

See R&E, Page 2

STUDENT SENATE

Committees review progress, plans at end of term meeting

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reporter

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 WAS THE LAST MEETING OF THE 46th Student Senate. While their term of office is not over until new senators are elected, the Senate does not have any further planned meetings. At this meeting, the Senate spent time reviewing what the committees completed this past year, and what plans they have for the future.

Chris Hoskins '16 presented for the Communications Committee. While Hoskins has been the chairman for the latter half of the semester, he presented a strong focus on social media outreach on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. His committee also worked on rebranding Student Government logos, including creating an overarching logo and reworking ones for the Senate, the Executive Board, the Judicial Board, and the Graduate and Undergraduate Class Councils.

Graduate student Spencer Scott presented for the Academic Affairs Committee. Their focus this year was on their fellowship project and benchmarking the assistance students receive when applying for external fellowships. AAC also worked on cataloging undergraduate research at

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R&E: 15 students back on ballot

From **Page 1**

be included on the final ballot.

Finally, Decision 6 overturned Decision 2 and extended the deadline for nomination form submissions to Monday, April 11 at 11:59 pm.

Following the submission of several appeal requests from candidates, the Judicial Board convened to hold a hearing on the matters. In the early hours of Tuesday, graduate student and J-Board Chairman Nathan James released the body's first decision pertaining to the 2016 election season, which consists of four unanimous rulings.

The first affirmed that the final elections would proceed as planned and that any canceled primaries shall remain canceled.

Next, the J-Board ruled that candidates who failed to turn in preliminary expense forms did violate the *Elections Handbook*, but decided that, because it could

unfairly impact the affected candidates' races, R&E's *Decision 4* is "not in effect."

Finally, the aforementioned candidates found in violation would be penalized with a 20 percent reduction of expense limits.

On Tuesday, April 12, following an inquiry regarding the grade point average minimum for GM and PU candidates, R&E released another wave of decisions involving candidates' appeals to have the minimum waived.

In *Decision 7*, three rulings were made regarding Gillespie McComb's appeal. The first permitted her to submit an appeal even though her candidacy form had already been submitted, and the second requested that she submit a more thorough appeal that details the specific circumstances. Finally, the third placed a sanction on Gillespie McComb for her late submission, adding an additional hour of community service to her requirement.

Decision 8, *Decision 9*, *Decision 10*, *Decision 11* also acknowledged

the GPA minimum and formally approved the appeals of GM candidates Paul Ilori '17, McEneaney, Gillespie McComb, and Class of 2019 Senator candidate Caleb Caraway '19.

Finally, *Decision 12* sanctioned Caraway for violation of Section 1.2 with an additional hour of community service.

Four sanctions have been issued as of press time for various sign policy infringements.

The final GM and PU debates will take place tonight, April 13, starting at 7 pm with the GM candidates. Final elections will take place on Thursday in the Darrin Communications Center, Commons Dining Hall, and the Rensselaer Union, starting at 9 am. If no PU candidate receives 40 percent of the votes, a runoff election will be held with the top two candidates early next week.

All decisions released by R&E and the J-Board that relate to GM Week 2016 can be found at <http://poly.rpi.edu/s/3zfqt/>. ♦

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Bylaw revisions passed, new banner designs approved for display

Jack Wellhofer

Senior Reporter

LAST THURSDAY APRIL 7, THE RENSSELAER UNION EXECUTIVE Board held their final official meeting of the semester.

The Marketing, Advertising, and Publicity Committee presented the new banner designs that would replace the current 125th anniversary designs. Four different designs were presented with the themes "Global View," "Multicultural Sophistication," "Intellectual Agility," and a more generic "Since 1890." Each of the first three will be paired with the last when hung up around campus. Each of these themes embodies what the Institute is calling the "New Polytechnic" and reflects the teachings of the Clustered Learning Advocacy and Support for Students philosophy. The MAP Committee was looking for reallocation of funding for this project. In a unanimous vote, the E-Board approved the motion to reallocate funds.

Former Director of the Union Joe Cassidy made a guest appearance to the meeting to bid the E-Board a formal good-bye, sending his regards to Student Senate, as he could not make their meeting. He expressed his great pleasure of having worked with them and wished them the best of luck with the remainder of their time at RPI.

Business Administrator Martha McElligott announced the determination of a summer intern for the Administration Office. While Residence Life will set up the student with room and board, the Union will be paying a stipend of \$3,000. The purpose of her presentation was to obtain the E-Board's approval of hiring this summer graduate intern, which was granted.

McElligott presented again for the Clubhouse Pub, appealing for funds to purchase chairs for the pub. The tables and chairs currently residing in the pub were donated by the Class of 1990, the year the pub was founded. Currently, four chairs are missing, and the rest are falling apart. A sum of \$2,300 was proposed to cover cost of 36 chairs, which would replace all present and absent chairs. With only one member opposed, the E-Board passed the motion to fund this proposal.

Union Policies Committee chairman Jeremy Feldman '16 presented the 29 separate amendments made for the E-Board's bylaws, most of which were clarifications. A 30th amendment was made concerning the situation where the E-Board would be approving something against the bylaws. The requirements for something like this to be approved, according to the proposal made by the Policies committee, would be three-fifths majority as well as the approval of the President. This proposal, as well as whether or not committee chairmen should be approved by both the E-Board and the President, incited much discussion amongst the members. After this discussion and voting, it was concluded that in the case of the Board acting against the procedures of their bylaws, only a three-fifths majority was necessary, without the vote of the President. As for committee chair appointees, both the Board's and President's approval were concluded necessary.

The meeting concluded with a motion to formally thank 126th President of the Union Nick Dvorak '16 for his hard work and contribution to the legacy of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, written and signed by the members of the Executive Board. In an attempt to rule the motion out of order, Dvorak was overruled by all present members of the E-Board. The motion passed unanimously. ♦



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

POLICIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JEREMY FELDMAN '16 EXPLAINS changes to the E-Board bylaws.

Posters: Rounds claims RPI sign policy was violated

From **Page 1**

also not be posted on Institute buildings with the exception of the Low Center for Industrial Innovation, Darrin Communications Center, and the Jonsson Engineering Center." Signs are also not allowed inside the buildings without approval, on glass, or on the footbridge. This was the reason Rounds gave for removal.

Violations of the sign policy allow for immediate removal of the signs in question. The Institute also reserves the right to remove signs that are deemed to be "graphically inappropriate, profane, libelous, in unsightly condition, or outdated information."

In Rounds' opinion, the signs were inappropriate and, as their numbers increased, they became unsightly. However, if a student or organization brought a proposal to post a large volume of signs, Rounds said it would be considered by the administration.

When asked if he himself considered the posters "unsightly," Rounds said, "When you take a look at the number of signs, being installed with masking tape that was wrinkled and crooked, signs all over the place ... we do everything we can to make this campus look good all the time." He said that it is important that "the campus looks good and respectable when we have a large number of visitors here for special events."

Rounds also said that some people felt the posters were "painting the buildings" with the amount of coverage and that Save the Union was making "an effort to blanket the campus."

In the videos, Public Safety officers leave a number of campaign posters that were in the same locations as the Save the Union posters. Some raised questions as to why these posters were not removed, despite seemingly violating the same rules. This is because, during Grand Marshal Week, sections of the sign policy are waived for campaign postering, as defined in section five, subsection B.

Rounds reiterated that posters were removed because of the notice received from students. "We're not inspecting the campus every single day to determine whether a particular sign is in violation or not," said Rounds when asked why some illegal posters remained up for more than a week.

"There may have been signs up prior to Saturday that we had not removed. Maybe our enforcement [of] every single individual sign that may have been installed was not 100 percent."

The *Poly* also emailed Save the Union for a statement. They responded that "without questions, all signs placed on the outside of the CII, DCC, and JEC were in compliance with the sign policy."

The extended sign policy, approved by the Student Senate, which pertains to campaign posters and posters that could be considered campaign material, allows postering on more locations than outlined in the *Student Handbook*.

Save the Union members consider themselves a political movement because of the recent *Preserve the Student Union* petition which reached more than 400 signatures and because of referendums relating to the Rensselaer Union approved by the Senate to be on the ballot for GM Week 2016.

Save the Union does not consider their postering to be excessive. "We do not believe our postering was excessive in any way. We have a large variety of information that we believe is of public interest and requires numerous posters to achieve that message," they said. It was estimated that around 100 posters were on campus, with replacements put up as posters were damaged or removed.

A full audio recording of the the interview with Rounds can be found at <http://poly.rpi.edu/s/1tvh8/>. ♦

Senate: SLC presents updates to access plan

From **Page 1**

Rensselaer, making it easier for undergraduate students to find professors to work with.

Graduate student Jen Church presented on the Union Annual Report Committee. Church noted that, this year, the committee added more letters to the document, including a brief history of the Union Annual Report, and created three versions; a complete version, a condensed version, and a pamphlet for distribution.

Facilities and Services Committee projects were presented by Michael

Han '16. This year's project was installing water bottle filling stations. Through the sale of water bottles and a weR Gold program, the committee now has enough funding to install filling stations in popular student locations.

Student Life Committee Vice-Chairman Harrison Leinweber '18 presented on behalf of Paul Ilori '17. SLC's largest project was re-vamping how residence hall access works for students. Continuing from last year, the committee benchmarked and worked to create a proposal presented to Vice... President for Administration

Visit poly.rpi.edu/s/fp8l5/ for the rest of this week's Senate article!

CANDIDATE PROFILES

President of the Union



Shannon Gillespie McComb
BMED '17



Liam McEneaney
MECL '18

Class of 2017

Vice President

Michael Gardner
CSYS/CSCI '17

As Vice President of our Class of 2017, I will continue to advocate and foster class spirit. With our class moving into its senior year, we will continue our planning for our senior events like 100 Days, 50 Days, and Senior Week. I will continue to have weekly meetings with the Class Council and discuss ideas to make our community closer. We will continue our open meeting policy so if you have an idea for an event you can express it to us all. It's been a pleasure to serve for the past two years.

Senator

Thomas Alappat
ELEC '17
CJ Markum
NUCL/MECL '17

Class of 2018

Vice President

Sean Waclawik
CSCI '18

Alumni Vice President

Marcus Flowers
BMED '16

Alumni Treasurer

Morgan Schweitzer
MECH '16

Graduate Representative

Spencer Scott
NUCS
Amanda Youmans
NUCL

Class of 2019

Vice President

Colin Williamson
CSCI '19

Senator

Nancy Bush
CHEM '19
Caleb Caraway
PHYS '19

Representative

Mark Birkbeck
MECL '19
Thomas Jansson
ARCH '19
David Tamir
MGTE '19

These candidates were not included in the Grand Marshal Week issue due to Rules & Elections decisions that have since been reversed. They have been included in this issue for consistency.



Kick-off Day Event Featuring

- Eco Princess Fest
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- Musical Performances by RPI Students
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**FOOD, FUN,
& GAMES FOR
ALL AGES!**



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Rensselaer Union
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Editorial

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

Mental health versus the bureaucracy of Rensselaer

I'D LIKE TO BEGIN BY SAYING THAT this notebook was the catalyst for my joining *The Poly*, and that this entry has been roughly a year in the making. I joined this staff because I wanted this campus to understand my experiences in the raw, visceral way that made them meaningful to me.

I sincerely apologize if this is upsetting to any of our readers, but for the sake of transparency I need to be blunt; during my freshman year at RPI, I was admitted to the psych ward at Samaritan Hospital after my Resident Assistant discovered that I had been contemplating suicide. Following a four day stay, I was allowed to finish one of my courses from home. Come the end of the semester, I was placed on leave of absence by the administration. It was inarguably one of the most difficult experiences of my life, and it hurts me to think that this is a situation that other students might have to go through.

Prior to being admitted, I had acknowledged that I was struggling in terms of mental health; I made attempts to reach out to the campus resources that are offered to students struggling with depression or anxiety. However, over the course of several weeks, I was met with the consistent failure of the online scheduling portal for the counseling center. Despite my best efforts, I was unable to make use of the counseling center that RPI champions as a

resource for students in need. As I was leaving RPI for the semester, I was frequently asked how I had allowed my happiness and sanity to deteriorate to a point where I required hospitalization. As I was leaving, I was told in no uncertain terms that the administration had no record of the appointment portal ever going down.

Following my leave of absence, RPI made its conditions for my readmission abundantly clear: four to six months of counseling, in addition to a clearing from a therapist. These were terms that I had agreed to when I had left, as I had felt that months of therapy would be sufficient for me to have the ability to return. I spent months finding ways to reconstruct myself from the depression that had caused me to leave school, and I came out a stronger, healthier, and more self-aware person. When the time came to reapply for the fall semester, I was confident in my progress and received a glowing recommendation from the licensed psychologist with whom I had met several times a week. However, RPI responded to my efforts with a form letter. I had been denied readmission for the fall semester, without explanation or direction.

Through a bureaucratic nightmare that demanded many hours' worth of phone calls, I was able to find the reasoning behind my rejection: campus psychologists had determined that I was not

mentally capable of the stress associated with college education. These were the same psychologists that had been completely inaccessible to me when I needed them, and they still felt that their paper representation of me was worth more than the testimony of the licensed psychologist who had worked so hard alongside me. I was forced back to the drawing board, and it was only through the efforts of one particularly helpful administrator that I was able to point out misinformation within the counseling center's system and return this fall.

I think it's worth saying that administrators had claimed that they were on my side as I was leaving. In the eyes of the Institute, however, I was reduced from human to liability the minute that I stepped foot off campus. This is an institute that contributed to the decay of my mental health in a large way, and then made me jump through hoops to redeem myself once I was down. I am thankful to have come out of my struggle with a better head on my shoulders, but I refuse to say that the actions of the school have contributed to who I am in any positive way.

RPI has created an environment that is hugely stressful, and campus does not provide our students with the resources to cope with it in an effective way. It is toxic, and I want to have that toxicity in writing. I would like to thank everyone that has allowed me to improve over this last year, and I couldn't be more grateful for the support I have received. ♦



Nathan Dorer
Editorial/Opinion Editor

Thanking the Executive Board for a great year

FOR THE PAST SEMESTER AND A HALF I HAVE HAD THE privilege of sitting in on the Rensselaer Union Executive Board meetings, Thursdays at 8 pm. To be totally honest with everyone, it wasn't always a privilege. I started the semester off starry-eyed and willing to take on any task for the Editorial Board of *The Poly*. I thought, "Dang, these people are official. They're like ... a real newspaper." Having dealt with nothing so professional, I was easily roped into the task of covering what was so elusively referred to as "E-Board."

My good friend and current Editor in Chief, Jack Wellhofer, went with me to that first meeting. We sat down together, off to the side, and took mad notes. Well, Jack took useful, concise notes. I, in a frantic wind, recorded word for word what everyone was saying. And I didn't even know what they were saying. "The policies committee has made an amendment to the bylaws (or was it guidelines?) concerning club budgeting ..." or "I have a motion here approving (insert club) as a Union funded club ..." or "I just have some qualms over the precedent approving this motion will have on further cases ..."

The meeting came to a close and Jack looked over at me. "So, you want to write E-Board?" And I, in my ever-present need to please others, agreed.

Every week, they asked "Liss? You gonna write E-Board this week?" And I did. It got to the point that the E-Board sign-in sheet had my name on it with the title *Poly* Reporter. I even got a mailbox! I was a part of the team.

And I took it for granted.

Some weeks I moan and groan about having to attend "E-boring," and that previously mentioned good friend Jack will step in for me on certain weeks. This past week was one of those weeks. You'll notice my name under the Senate article, not the E-Board one. The reason for this is based in the need for Jack to finish one of our "post-protest" articles during the Student Senate meeting.

All I can and will say about the Senate meeting is that it is nothing like the E-Board meetings.

Now, let me tell you about the E-Board meetings. Current President of the Union Nick Dvorak '16 runs a tight ship with his merry band of appointed E-Board members. At the beginning of each meeting, I am presented with an agenda detailing who will be here, when they will, and a brief (what I like to call) teaser of what their presentation will be about. The E-Board members make discussion on the presentations, raise good points, ask pertinent questions then—they get the job done.



Liss Ryan
Former Features Editor

TOP HAT

A fond farewell to a year of making a difference

HELLO EVERYONE,

This will be my final Top Hat article, and with everything going on, I'll admit it really snuck up on me. I have a lot I wish I could tell everyone, so forgive me for being wordy.

I originally ran for office to see what I could provide for RPI, to find what I could do beyond my education, and to really enjoy the spirit that comes with running a campaign. I wanted to prove to students (and to myself) that we are all capable of taking control

of our campus, and shaping it the way that we want to. I didn't think I was going to deal with anything crazy, and just wanted to create a social lifestyle that students could hold as the pride of their time here.

Despite all of the challenges, controversies, and disagreements, I really do love student government, and all of the opportunities it offers students on our campus. Student government isn't about the elections or the prestige; it's about taking an idea that you have for the campus

and finding out how to make it into reality. I've seen casual conversations between students turn into full-fledged projects brought to the high ends of the Institute, and seeing students take pride in their work afterwards is nothing short of heart-warming. I understand the concerns people have about being in the public eye, but after nearly four years here, I assure you that if you step up and ask for things to change, you'll find more people standing behind you than you expected.

I would like to apologize for not getting to all of the items that I wanted to; it truly disappoints me. Namely, I wanted to have a great increase in academic resources for students, and to find ways to better connect the students of the Capital District. Fortunately, I can proudly say that there are students who are committed to seeing this happen, and I wish for their success in the coming years.

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Marcus Flowers
Grand Marshal

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Editorial and Business offices are located in Room 3418 of the Rensselaer Union, Troy, New York, 12180-3590. Subscription and advertising rates can be forwarded upon request. Subscriptions are sent via first class mail. Address correction requested.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Making dignity a priority

WITH THE SEMESTER ABOUT TWO THIRDS OF THE WAY TO completion, classes are ramping up in difficulty in preparation for finals, and the workload for all RPI students is increasing from an already extraordinarily high level. Combine the academic rigors of RPI with social and club commitments, and it is easy to see how people can get stressed. Mix in the fact that Grand Marshal Week 2016 elections are tomorrow and an emotional powder keg has been created, ready to explode. It is easy to see how—with your personal time and energy being spread thin—sometimes basic human decency can be thrown out the window.

Yet, the Editorial Board of *The Poly* feels that it is important for the entire campus community to treat each other with respect and dignity. When so many people of diverse backgrounds are working together, disagreements are bound to occur. However, you can

disagree with a person's opinion on a subject while still giving them the respect they deserve. It is possible to agree to disagree, and move on with your lives.

This extends into respecting the rights and opinions of all the GM Week candidates. Vote for whom you believe will be the best candidate, but realize that their opposition has many good ideas and does not deserve to be publicly ridiculed. If you would not say something to a candidate's face, it has no place on an anonymous forum. We all need to remember that, at the end of the elections cycle, the candidates are not distant politicians, but students like us.

The fact is that we've all accomplished much in our tenure as students here, and it would go a long way to remember that when times are tough and people are ornery. ♦

Notebook: *Thank E-Board*

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Sound boring to you? Well, to the untrained eye (and mine was for sure at the beginning of the year), it may appear as much, but I am here to assure you that the E-Board meetings are far more than what lies on the surface. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are dealt with weekly; the financial fate of your student-run Union is decided in that room (Shelnut Gallery). It's very serious business, and I can say, with a whole and untainted confidence, that I can vouch for the intelligence of every person on the E-Board.

Sitting in on their meetings has taught me so much, and I just want the public to know that I don't do them justice with my weekly articles. Yeah, I take some pretty awesome notes (although the E-board secretary has had to spot me on notes more than a few times, but it's cool, she and I are tight). And, yeah, I make some pretty good jokes when I'm in there, and I can say that I'm friends with more than one member. But honestly, dear reader, you will not understand the pure, unadulterated euphoria that is E-Board until you take the time to sit in on one of their meetings.

Am I hyping it up? Eh. Yeah, a little. But honestly, I can't quit gushing about how impressed I am with this year's Executive Board. And their term is coming to a close soon. So get in there before it's too late! That is one stellar team, and I want to thank them for being exactly who they are.

On that note, take care when voting this coming Grand Marshal Week. Take care in all the offices you are voting upon. They are *all* important, from GM down to your class representatives. You want the best. You deserve the best. ♦

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Poly views do not constitute my own

I have seen some comments about the lack of a Grand Marshal endorsement by The Polytechnic. I have seen comments calling the staff pretentious and petty, and I have to agree. As a voting member of The Poly, I was completely in favor of endorsing Paul Ilori '17 for Grand Marshal. I didn't care that he was slightly unprofessional in his interview. I looked at his submissions and his extensive track record with

student government, and I thought he was the best person for the job. I have heard first-hand accounts that—when it comes down to meetings with administrators—Ilori is professional and gets the job done.

I don't think his minor misstep during the interview should have cost him the nomination. Simply stating that he needs to work on his professionalism in the endorsement would have sufficed. Being only one

member of the editorial board of The Polytechnic, I couldn't decide this for the newspaper as a whole. As a member of The Poly, I stand by the decision of the staff; but, as an individual, I am in full support of Ilori for Grand Marshal.

Tyler Carney '18
Contributing Editor
The Polytechnic

Top Hat: The last

From **Page 4**

I genuinely love the students at this school—even if we may bicker at times with one another—and I don't think anybody who has been in my position would disagree. Being Grand Marshal was not about being in the spotlight and the center of attention, but it was about being a resource that students could trust to be there for them in times of need. Students may be angry and upset, they may be joyous, and they may be apathetic. In all of these situations, the Grand Marshal is their advocate and must accept responsibility for anything and everything that follows. Summer Arch is not over with; there are many more conversations we must have with the administration about the campus environment, and we have to find ways to uplift every single student who feels an oppressive culture around them. I leave office for now, but that does not mean that I am done giving my all to bringing all student perspectives to the table. Further, I am grateful to the students that gave me this responsibility.

I want students to know that they are an unstoppable force of thinkers, workers, leaders, and innovators. I know that it sounds like I'm just throwing superfluous buzzwords out, but I genuinely mean each and every one of them. I can't imagine students seeking solutions so proactively at any other university, and with a selflessness that defies understanding. There's a storm of emotions sweeping across campus today, but we, the students, are actively seeking a way to resolve things, and that, in and of itself, is a feat that we should be wholeheartedly proud of.

Now that we are near the end of things, I would like to thank every single person that worked with me on the Student Senate this year. I know we had our share of rough times, but many people demonstrated a—forgive me for this one—resilience that made it possible to keep things going through the term. I asked for a lot of work from the Senate and its officers; I didn't always make things fun for them, and I'm happy that they stuck around anyways. To all 26 voting Senators, and all of our non-elected volunteers, I tip my hat to you. To all of the administrators who helped us succeed and provided support to the students of the campus, I thank you in full. To all of the faculty that worked with us to support an educational environment we can all be proud of, I appreciate every bit of energy you gave to us. And of course, to the students, I thank you for electing us to be your voice.

I should have something way cooler to say at the end of all this, but I'll settle for this: students, find out what is most important to you here at RPI. If that's your fraternity brother or your sorority sister, defend Greek Life tooth and nail for them. If it's your athletic career, force your heart and nerve and sinew to a place where limits don't exist. If you hold this university dear to you, do what you think is best for it, and stand proudly by your actions. I wish nothing but the best for every single person on this campus, and for everyone who sets foot here in the future. ♦

House for rent. 15th ST. 4 students, 4 BR, Kitchen, DR, LR, 1 1/2 bath. Finished basement. W&D. New furnace, off street parking for 3 cars and one in garage. No utilities. \$1900.00. Will sign two year lease Contact Gail 518-469-0925

DERBY

Sending a sincere thank you for a great term

DEAR RENSSELAER COMMUNITY,

Tomorrow, you'll be voting in one of the oldest traditions at RPI: Grand Marshal Week. That will bring an end to my term and bring a new President of the Union. I have spent a lot of time over the past few days thinking over what to write in my last Derby, and it has come down to a simple "Thank You." Thank you for granting me the privilege to serve as your 126th President of the Union. Thank you for helping me bleed cherry red and ivory white. Thank you for changing my life.

A year ago I could have never imagined myself where I am now. I still vividly remember having to drop from the race a mere 150 signatures away from a primary spot to deal with a family emergency. I remember being awake for over two days straight running my write-in campaign by myself when I was finally able to jump back in. I remember signing jar lids "PU Week 2015" in the cold the day of the run-off election. I remember being floored when I found out I had actu-

ally won, and I'm still in the process of archive diving to find out if I'm the first write-in PU.

I'll admit, I came in having little direct Student Government experience, but I never felt a lack of support or found people unwilling to help me learn. Especially with a year as tumultuous as this one has been for the Union, I have been truly blessed to have the support network that has always been there for me no matter what. I could fill up this Derby with nothing but examples of how the Executive Board, the staff, the students, the alumni/alumnae, and beyond have been more than willing to share their time and efforts. When I needed to learn about the



Nick Dvorak
President of the Union

bookstore transition, its history, and past contracts with the Union, Rick Hartt, Mike McDermott, and Joe Cassidy among others were always there to answer questions. When I

was in the hospital after fracturing my skull over the summer, I awoke one morning to a fruit basket from the admin office and a card that brought a smile to my face for the first time in days. In the weeks before budgeting, the E-Board did their homework so well we finished budgeting an entire day and a half early within a few hundred dollars of our target. When the events of the past few weeks unfolded, I think I almost ran out all the minutes on my cell phone plan talking to past student leaders, alumni mentors, and other students.

I have been thanked a few times in the past few weeks for my work, but in all honesty there are many who deserve those thanks more than me. I will try to name just a few, but I know I lack both the time and space to fully express the debt of gratitude I owe to the student body and the Rensselaer

Community for all they have given me throughout my tenure.

To the Executive Board, thank you for putting up with my terrible jokes and odd analogies, for sitting through the painstakingly long meetings, and being one of the best teams I have ever had the pleasure to be a part of. I am incredibly proud of you and the work you have done, and I hope you in turn feel the same for yourselves. You have made an impact on the Union that will be felt by current and future students alike. I am honored to be able to call you not just my Board, but my friends.

To the staff, thank you for endlessly teaching me, for keeping me grounded, and for working tirelessly for students. Your devotion to the Union does not go unrecognized, and quite frankly we couldn't do it without you. Thank you for the long days, the constant smiles, and your unwavering commitment to helping students, even when we can be less than pleasant to work with.

To *The Polytechnic*, thank you for dealing with my late submissions and so-so writing skills. I don't know if I ever told you, but when I woke up in the intensive care unit after my accident, the first thing I did in my concussed state was try to message the E-Board to have them tell you I wouldn't be submitting a Derby that week. Even if it doesn't seem like it sometimes, I swear I try to get these in at a reasonable hour.

Finally, to the community as a whole, thank you for making my time here at Rensselaer an amazing one. Graduation is right around the corner and I may be moving 1,200 miles away for work, but RPI will always have a special place in my heart. I only wish I could have done more to give back to a community that has given me so much and allowed me to grow immensely over four years. I look forward to what the next PU will bring, the preservation of our student run Union, and returning to campus to see how things have grown. I raise my glass in toast to you and to Dear Old Rensselaer. ♦

PRESIDENT OF THE UNION



Why do you want to be President of the Union?

Shannon Gillespie McComb

I have loved serving on the Executive Board this year, representing students and facilitating activities for clubs and students. I believe I am the best candidate to lead the Union into future productive change and I am very dedicated to enriching students' interaction with RPI, especially as the Union is experiencing great challenges. Since I was 8 years old, I have been involved in government and policy issues for my school, community, state and country, and I have had the opportunity to be an advocate speaking on behalf of many issues. I want to make a contribution to RPI and to get to know more students. I would love to have serve as the Union President, and the chance to make a positive change. My experience, values and advocacy on behalf of the students will increase student engagement and transparency behind decisions which affect everyone. My passion coupled with my experience both in our Union and the Union in the UK, make me believe that I am the best candidate to guide our Union. I have a reputation for speaking out on important issues, have built strong relationships with student groups, and developed lines of communication with administrators.

Liam McEneaney

Most of all I want to be able to directly oversee and influence how our Union operates and allocates funding. I hope to get rid of as much bureaucratic nonsense as possible to allow students to quickly and efficiently utilize union resource without having to wade through mountains of paperwork. I also seek to refine my leadership style by working with a board of people with diverse and informed opinions.



Describe your experience in student government.

Shannon Gillespie McComb

This last year of service to the Union as an Executive Board Member has been the best experience at RPI and extremely rewarding. I have spent many hours meeting with students, clubs, administrators, organizing activities and helping to budget funds which are allocated to student organizations. I want to preserve the Union's autonomy, as it is one of the few student-run unions in the country. As an Eboard Member, I visited two other college campuses to research ARCH programs and how that transition at RPI will affect the Union. I worked to include student groups in the Union, which many times feel excluded from representation, such as student veteran groups, foreign students and LGBTQA organizations. While I have been frustrated by much of feeling blindsided, I have learned the importance of putting in extra effort to combat student apathy, both in the body and student government. We must care about every detail to the highest standard. I would love to continue this representation as President of the Union to represent all the students and provide the greatest service to the entire student body.

Liam McEneaney

I am a Class of 2017 rep, but I have not done anything too radical as a member. I helped out with some barbecues, put up some posters, helped organize the class ring, and voted on some things. We are planning to save most of the money for Senior Week, but I wish we were more lenient on the spending to actually have some creative class events to improve class cohesion. Another gripe I have is the fact that we are no longer able to have physical gifts as the class gift.



List your campus activities, including levels of involvement, positions held, and awards received.

Shannon Gillespie McComb

Union E-Board Representative

- Assist with management and allocation of over \$10.5 million budget for campus clubs
- Determine operating policies and procedures for Union facilities
- Represent student interests affected by transition to ARCH program and outreach to all students

RPI International Student Ambassador

- Help international students transition to attending university in the U.S.
- Assist foreign students with questions, difficulties or issues which arise

Biomedical Engineering Mentor Program, Mentor

- Guide and advise new students (including freshman and transfer students) at RPI

Rensselaer Leadership Award

- Awarded for academic years 2014 through 2017

Sierra Club: Executive Board Member for County of Ventura

- Youngest member selected to a leadership committee in its 120-year history
- Helped organize and attended RPI's faction for the Earth Day March on New York City, 2014

Alpha Phi: Emerging Leaders Institute

- Selected to attend leadership training and awarded scholarship, Summer 2015

Alpha Phi: Director of Community Service(2016)/ Director of Marketing(2015)

- Led Relay for Life cancer fundraiser, and many other events, promoting community service and new membership

Biomedical Engineering Dept. Administrative Assistant (2014/2015)

Liam McEneaney

President/Founder of the Official RPI Boxing and MMA club
NROTCU RPI – Morale Welfare and Recreations Officer
Class of 2017 Representative.

Shannon Gillespie McComb



Name three short-term (within your term of office) goals and three long-term goals (beyond your term of office) that you have for the Executive Board.

My short-term goals during my tenure in office are: 1. Establish communication and hold meetings with institute leaders about obtaining a new Director of the Union; 2. Form a permanent committee to help with the transition to the summer ARCH program; and after the transition, to supplement programs for summer students; and 3. Clarify the labeling of student activities fees as it relates to athletics (which are no longer part of the Union budget); and transparency as to how the budget is allocated.

My three main, long-term goals for the Executive Board are: 1. Maintain autonomy of the Union and maximize student representation with the administration, particularly in light of current upheaval; 2. Study and implement a smooth and fair transition to the summer ARCH program so that student funds are allocated equitably; and 3. Increase student involvement and outreach to all groups

who may not be aware of student services and clubs, and those who have previously felt excluded.

Liam McEneaney

Short term-

1. More comprehensive documents that can answer common student questions regarding student government. As it stands right now you need to actually know somebody on the inside to figure out how any of it works.
2. Bring back physical class gifts as an option.
3. Set aside a budget and committee to facilitate new club development. This is to ensure new clubs don't get crushed by a lack of budget and support from the union.
4. Improve international student presence in student government.

Long term-

1. Set precedence for Administrative Transparency (increased meetings with BoT, Shirley, etc). There used to be a student present on BoT committee meetings, but those disappeared recently. Since they have the final say in funding we need to have a strong and direct connection to their plans and actions.
2. Improve and expand upon professional development programs available at RPI.
3. Promote a culture of physical/mental wellness and fitness throughout RPI.



In your own words, what do you feel are the roles of the President of the Union and the Union Executive Board?

Shannon Gillespie McComb

The role of the Union President is to guide and promote the Executive Board and facilitate communication, debate and transparency to get the greatest results and most efficient budgeting for RPI students. The Union Executive Board oversees, manages, and supervises financing for student organizations, clubs and activities; interfaces with the administration and student government to implement activities; and determines policies and procedures to fairly and responsibly effect goals of the Board. The Board prepares and approves budgets for student organizations, facilitates student activities, forms policies under which the student clubs and entities operate and allocates funding for those activities.

Liam McEneaney

Essentially the role is to maintain fiscal responsibility of the Union and make sure the budget gets to the students in the most meaningful and efficient way. The president's main role is to preside of the board and select the most qualified students for the board that also represent the student population.



What do you think are the incumbent President of the Union's strengths and weaknesses? What would you do to improve upon them if you were elected?

Shannon Gillespie McComb

Our current President, Nick Dvorak, has been extremely effective at communicating with the Board, transparency and promoting inclusion of all students in activities. He has put a lot of time, attention and energy into his leadership position and has been efficient with budgeting. I feel my experience as a current EBoard Member will be extremely helpful to me as President and in anticipating and preventing issues or problems which may arise. I especially learned quite a bit about how to bring a team together, as that was one of Nick's greatest strengths. Some of the circumstances that this Board has faced were unexpected and I would strive to be very proactive, campaign for inclusive student participation and involvement, and emphasize long-range planning. In addition, I would meet with the administration to have a new Director of the Union hired and advocate for a strong student union, not decreasing its ability to serve the student body.

PRESIDENT OF THE UNION

Liam McEneaney

I know for a fact that his board is diverse and well informed. From what I gather they have no issues regarding the budget currently and are in a very stable financial position. One thing that stood out to me was his effort to increase direct club interaction with the board. He has had regular meetings with club heads to hear out their needs and progress. I have heard that in his term there have been no appeals for club budgets, since all of their needs have actually been met. The things I want to improve upon are the ease of access to student government information. If you are on the outside it is still hard to find important and relevant information quickly.



How do you plan to improve committee participation and get non-representatives more involved in the Executive Board?

Shannon Gillespie McComb

I believe increased visibility of EBoard members in daily activities is important in getting the word out to students of services available to them, and the importance of the EBoard to their university experience. This could include an online "suggestion box" for questions, ideas, or criticisms students wish to voice, planned activities at the Union once a month (for example, a pizza night or movie night) or other gatherings to unify students and promote communication among them. I would emphasize to EBoard Members, the importance of reaching out to all students, and particularly new students to get them interested in their student government and activities. Furthermore I would like the Eboarders to continue fostering their club relationships and then to identify students who would be great committee participants

Liam McEneaney

I want the E-Board to be even more public and transparent than it is now. Currently the stugov sites are in shambles and I have to wade through the ugly, and rather disorganized, flagship site to find out exactly what is happening. I want it to be easy to digest. TL;DR summaries of EVERYTHING. I want to publish where all the money is going so people have a chance to voice their opinion on the state of the budget at all levels. I want students to know why they should care.



How would you evaluate the current Union budget situation? What do you foresee as future budget concerns?

Shannon Gillespie McComb

Budget planning has been very good this last year because each EBoard Member took a lot of time meeting with their clubs and organizations to be sure money was allocated efficiently and fairly. The Board was able to add new student positions because of efficient use of money and excellent planning. Future concerns include planning for the summer ARCH program and budgeting for summer. As transparency is very important, I would seek to have the activities fee itemized on the Bursar's Statement, in detail, to show what sum is being charged to students for "athletics" and what amount for activities fees. This year, the athletics department was separated by RPI from the Union and is no longer part of the Board. This will affect budgeting and allocation of student activity fees for Board activities. The Union will no longer have the athletics funds be passed through the union, Eboard will no longer approving line by line of the athletics budget, and possibly pushing it to a different line item or tuition.

Liam McEneaney

As far as I know from my friends on E-Board there have been no major concerns regarding the budget. One issue that has been brought to my attention is that certain jobs that once were hired by RPI are now student jobs at places like ECAV. Services would have been shut down since the institute would not hire people who had left. Currently it is not a huge dent in the budget, since students work for minimum wage, but if more positions open it could become a concern.



What do you see as problems with the Union (in terms of clubs, building operations, et cetera), and what ideas do you have for fixing them?

Shannon Gillespie McComb

One of the immediate and important issues facing us is transition issues with the summer ARCH program, and proceeding with how the student union building and organization will operate over the summer. As this is a new program, policies regarding the charging and allocation of fees for the summer program needs to be determined, such as if fees should be charged separately for the summer program, what amount should be charged, how will the Union function over the summer, and the like.

Liam McEneaney

New clubs need money. It's very hard for new clubs to get money quickly, if they get any at all when they are accepted. Based on club interest and initiative I want to give them an appropriate upstart budget that can be obtained almost as soon as the club is accepted into the Union. This will require a steady supervision by a committee I plan on creating to help newer student clubs and ideas get a good start.



How do you intend to encourage students to fully utilize the resources of the Union?

Shannon Gillespie McComb

A difficult part of providing services and informing the student body is getting their attention and letting them know that the Union is here to serve them. I plan to initiate a campaign to inform the students of what the Union does for them, and to encourage and inspire them to use the Union's resources. I would institute the use of social media to reach as many students as possible. We could highlight different clubs every week or month and let all students know what exists for them on campus. We could also feature a Union member each week, which would be a student who discusses a particular club or activity in which he or she is involved which may spark interest in other students to join. I want to try increase membership in clubs and attendance at activities so that the current momentum we have does not fade over time. I would also encourage a forum, perhaps on Reddit, which would easily facilitate presenting suggestions or comments to the Board and I could respond. This could also be done in person, but greater participation would be expected with availability online. I would bring those concerns, questions and suggestions back to the Board for discussion and possible action. I believe that programs such as LEAP should be promoted, as the Union is here to make the clubs the best they can be; LEAP is a great way to do that. Additionally, I would promote Wellness Days of the Mueller Center to make sure that we have as much student involvement as possible.

Liam McEneaney

I firmly believe that most students actually have no idea the extent of services that the Union provides. I want to get people as informed as possible so they know exactly where to go to get what they need.

The Poly's domain will be switching to poly.rpi.edu.

YOU CAN LAND A GIG IN SILICON VALLEY
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EVERYTHING
YOU KNOW TO
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Sure, you could work for a buzzworthy tech company that has a playground in the lunchroom. Or you could come to the CIA – where you'll embark on a mission to keep Americans safe. With your STEM background, critical thinking skills and intellectual curiosity, you'll crack some of the toughest challenges imaginable – from developing the world's most advanced technology to seeing the complex narrative in big data.

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Features

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

CAMPUS EVENT

Spring show brings RPI colors

Elisabeth Ryan
Senior Reviewer

RECENTLY, THE INTERNATIONAL Championship of College *A Capella* Northeast quarter finalists The Rusty Pipes hosted their 19th Annual Spring Show on Friday, April 8, in the Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies auditorium. Their game show themed night had rousing performances broken up by games with audience member participation. The evening finished off with a raffle that guests had either purchased raffle tickets for, filled out a survey before hand to receive a free one, or won some from the games during the night.

To start off Act I, the Rusty Pipes performed “Should’ve Been Us” by Tori Kelly, “Bad Blood” by Taylor Swift, “Latch” by Sam Smith, “Hey Brother” by



Courtesy of The Rusty Pipes

MEMBERS OF THE RUSTY PIPES PERFORMED with enthusiasm.

Avicii, “Sweater Weather” by The Neighborhood, and a OneRepublic Medley. Personally, I am not a huge fan of pop songs performed by a *capella* groups, mainly because

pop artists utilize a lot of electronic sounds that translate awkwardly to vocals. However, the Rusty Pipes did a stunning job. My favorite of this set was at the beginning of

“Bad Blood” when they imitated a traditional choral group, and their solo in “Hey Brother.”

Act II started up after the intermission with “Ain’t it Fun” by Paramore, “Isn’t She Lovely” by Stevie Wonder, “Where R Ü Now” by Skrillex and Diplo, and “Iscariot” by Walk the Moon. I enjoyed this second set more. “Isn’t She Lovely” featured a whimsical *doo wop* by Bradley Schwartz ’16 and “Where R Ü Now” was sung in a smooth alto voice by Gina Jung ’17, both of which presented these solos phenomenally. However, my by far favorite song of the night was “Iscariot.” No solos were sung in this piece; every member of the Rusty Pipes worked together to produce the whole, rich sound that I had been getting hints at throughout the evening. It was the

See *A CAPPELLA*, Page 9

ALBUM REVIEW

Paul Simon plays on Latin topics

Nathan Dorer
Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN 1997, PAUL SIMON’S NINTH solo studio album, *Songs from The Capeman*, received the worst response of any album in Simon’s decades-long career. Originally written to accompany a Broadway musical of the same name, the album is a reimagining of latin music accompanied by a church choir. Although the musical itself was ultimately a failure, many critics found some redemption in the score written by Simon. In collaboration with Nobel laureate Derek Walcott, Simon managed to create a story through smart lyrics and fun reimaginings of latin music. For the sake of clarity, this is

See *ALBUM*, Page 9

MOVIE REVIEW

Sociopath leaves creepy feelings

Kay Sun
Senior Reviewer

DESPITE THE SENSE OF FRIGHT AND EXTREME SUPPRESSION IN MY SOUL afterwards, I have to say that *Nightcrawler* is an amazing neo-noir, crime thriller film, starring Jake Gyllenhaal and featuring Rene Russo, Riz Ahmed, and Bill Paxton. It looks into how a former thief, Louis Bloom, experienced all-rounded discrimination in society when trying to find a job, worked as a stringer—a freelance cameraman—to keep his head above water, and finally lost humanity and morality in his ‘dodge’ and the morbid pursuit of so-called ‘successful and meaningful business.’

At the beginning of the movie, Bloom is caught stealing by a safety guard. Ashamed and annoyed, he steals the guard’s watch and leaves with the stolen material. Later, when looking for a job, Bloom is rejected due to his file records as a thief. Even though he begs, people don’t trust him at all. All the dark lighting implies a heavyhearted plot, which, at that time, I assumed, aimed to stress and magnify Bloom’s desperation. I was angry about the fact that people don’t trust each other at all, and most don’t have sympathy and empathy in their hearts. While I acknowledged Bloom was not a trustworthy guy, I paradoxically pitied him for how deep bias roots in people’s heart, and how dictatorial and dogmatic people can be. I can see the eagerness to live an earnest life in his eye, as well as the craziness.

Since I never look at the skeleton of a movie before I watch it—I believe I can better enjoy the movie when knowing nothing about the plot—I had no idea what would happen at that time. I was both scared and compassionate, because Bloom’s

See *NIGHTCRAWLER*, Page 9



Courtesy of Open Road Films

LOUIS BLOOM SNEAKS onto the scene to get better shots.

CAMPUS EVENT

Dancesports competition draws student dance lovers



Michael Baird/The Polytechnic

PARTICIPANTS ENJOYED themselves in movements, rhythms of music and interaction with their partners.

Eric Lam

A Special to The Poly

RPI’S BALLROOM DANCE TEAM HOSTED ITS 9TH ANNUAL Dancesport Competition in the Alumni Sports and Recreation Center on Saturday, April 2nd. Over one hundred competitors from across the Northeast attended the competition, from schools including Boston University, Rochester Institute of Technology, the College of the Holy Cross, and Stony Brook University. About one hundred spectators, students, family, and community members alike also showed up to support the RPI Ballroom Team and watched some wonderful dancing.

The competition started at 8 am in the Armory and ran all day until 5 pm, with dancing all throughout the day. International Standard and American Smooth styles were danced in the morning and American Rhythm and International Latin styles were danced in the afternoon. Smooth and Standard includes dances like Waltz, Tango, and Foxtrot, while Rhythm and Latin includes dances like Cha Cha, Rumba, and Swing.

Dancers competed against other couples of their skill level, and were called back to successive rounds until the finals in their respective level. The top couples in each style were awarded scholarships to the Diamond Ballroom Dance Camp, organized by RPI Alumni James and Yaroslava Cassell.

RPI Ballroom expressed its gratitude towards the many volunteers, the officials who attended the competition, and the staff of the Rensselaer Union for their hard work in making this competition a success.

After the competition, Alex Schneiderman ’19 said: “As simplistic as it sounds, I dance because it’s fun. Coming into RPI, I’d never tried ballroom or even had the inclination for it, but I ended up trying it out and I got hooked. Something about the pure physicality of it makes for an almost cathartic experience—you’re effectively dancing your heart out, giving it

“When the music ends and the dancing stops, it all feels worth it” – Alex Schneiderman ’19

all for the spectators, judges, and yourself (and your partner). It can be exhausting and frustrating at times, but when the music ends and the dancing stops, it all feels worth it.”

Also, you don’t have to be a dancer to enjoy it, either—as a spectator, you can simply have fun watching. Dance is a universal language, and no matter how much or little you know about it, the emotion and energy extruded by the dancers is understandable—and enjoyable—to everyone in the room.

The RPI Ballroom Team is open to students as well as members of the community. Any level of experience is welcome (many people, even on the team, come in with zero dance experience). Practices are open and the commitment level is totally up to you. If you are interested in RPI Ballroom, check out their website at <http://ballroom.union.rpi.edu>! ♦

Nightcrawler: Dan Gilroy reveals the society in his eye

From **Page 8**



Courtesy of Open Road Films

THE PROTAGONIST FINALLY TURNS out to be ridiculously crazy and uses every mean to get his shots.

character is crawling with self-conflictions and mystery; I couldn't help digging into his mind.

If you are the same type of movie person as I am, you'd better watch *Nightcrawler* first and come back to discuss this article with me hopefully, you can find resonance here. Later on, after he sees stringers shoot the scene of a car crash, he gets himself a camera and rushes to catch the aftermath of a carjacking. He attempts to get a better shot than his rival stringer Joe Loder, and the police kick both him and Loder off the crime scene. Bloom listens in on the phone call Loder makes to the video buyer and calls the same number to sell his footage, which turns out to be a news station where he meets the morning news director, Nina Romina, an attractive middle-aged woman with a strong ambition to succeed in her business. However, the lack of exclusive and explosive news greatly hurts its rating. The arrival of Bloom's glorious and visually extravagant footage gives her the hope of drawing in a larger audience. Nina expressed her specific interests in footages that feature well-off, white victims and poor or minority crime conductors, in order to induce unsettlement and grab viewers' attention.

I am not going to list out all the "bombs" the amazing screenwriter Dan Gilroy buried in movie and were left to shake the audience's value. The unforeseeable plot not only scares you, but also makes you listen to your own deepest wickedness. Humans choose not to do certain things since they are afraid and they care at the same time. However, Bloom is taking advantage of every single available resource at hand, with fear of nothing and the aspiration of taking over everything.

Hardly surprisingly, you can also see the toil, dedication, ambition, perseverance, and ceaselessly learning

spirit he puts into his 'business,' which brought me ineffable, startling woe.

The movie also did an excellent job on lighting. Almost all the scenes were shot in the night, as its title is *Nightcrawler*. The murky surroundings, occasional top lighting, and nebulous scenes that sneakily happen in the night foment the theme and help build a better concept of the characters' personalities, or, I would rather say, the dark part of human nature.

In the end, I don't know what to say. I was immersed in fear, fright, heartbreak, shock, and more. I also felt excitement and amazement in my chest, too—it was such a good movie and performances presented by all actors in it were perfect and impressive, especially Jake Gyllenhaal's and Riz Ahmed's. Please don't miss their incredible acts; definitely go watch this breathtaking movie!

Besides the deliberate and unpredictable plot; excellent lighting framing, and sounding; and near-impeccable performance skills, the dark side of the news industry depicted in this film also invoked my empathy. Society is a huge machine that can be amazing at times and scary of others. As an editorial board member of *The Poly*, I have to say the responsibility of media is not to dominate, not even mention manipulate, the public's opinion for personal interest, but to inform the public of the authentic outline of events, and to inspire values and help make the world better. For people who have no idea about the Five Principles of Media Literacy, I list them out here:

1. All media is a construction.
2. The media constructs reality.
3. Audiences negotiate meaning in media.
4. Media has commercial implications.
5. Media contains ideological and value messages. ◇

Album: Music shows justice

From **Page 8**

not a review of the musical. This is merely a review of the album that managed to escape with some of its dignity intact.

To begin, the fact that the album was written for a musical gives the entire selection a sense of coherence. *Songs from The Capeman* is an experience meant to be enjoyed in one sitting, and there's a narrative between the romantic strums of Spanish guitar and angelic choirs. Simon rewrites the story of a 1959 gang murder on the voices of fast-paced salsa rhythms and somber doo-wop tracks. He acts as a bard throughout; he sings a creation of characters, and fills them with dialogue and personality as the story progresses. It's a game of race politics and summer love, interspersed with Latin-inspired background noise.

The album begins with the somber ballad *Adios Hermanos*, as the protagonist of the album is leaving his apartment in Brooklyn for his trial in the murder of two Irish children. Within the song, a church choir makes a *cappella* condolences to the boy who is as much a victim of circumstances as he is a murderer. Within the song, Simon describes the racial inequalities of a mid-century New York: "Just let some white boy die and the world goes crazy for blood—Latin blood." It's a somber opening, and one that appeals to intrigue and emotion in equal portions.

One of the most moving songs on the album is "The Vampires"; a story of a boy forced to join a gang for fear of his safety. This might be the one song on the album where the lyrics take the backseat; the song is a powerfully sexy tango, sung in the voice of the boss of the preeminent Puerto Rican gang. There's something inherently seductive in the music and it directly contributes to the romanticization of gang life that's woven into the fiber of the album. Simon's voice beckons listeners to fight for the sake of the gang, and the song is sultry enough that it's almost impossible not to.

The album is artful in its form of storytelling; these are words that create a story as much as they create a feeling. Throughout the entirety of the album, Simon keeps a sense of musical consistency that almost forces a listener to hear him out. Ultimately, Simon's album is political and empowering, and almost overwhelming in its cleverness. ◇



Courtesy of Warner Bros.

SONGS FROM THE CAPEMAN DREW great criticism after its launch.

A cappella: Music lights up campus

From **Page 8**

kind of performance that built a swell in your chest; it had depth. The true strength of the Rusty Pipes is when they are performing all as one, their voices blending and powerful.

The performance was finished with members of the Rusty Pipes inviting their group's alumni to the stage to perform "Pride" by U2. It was fun and heart-warming to watch.

After the performance, I interviewed Musical Director Daniel Alexander '18 and alto Gina Jung '17. When asked about the group's response to winning the first place spot in the ICCA Northeast quarter-finals, they were both thrilled and pleasantly surprised.

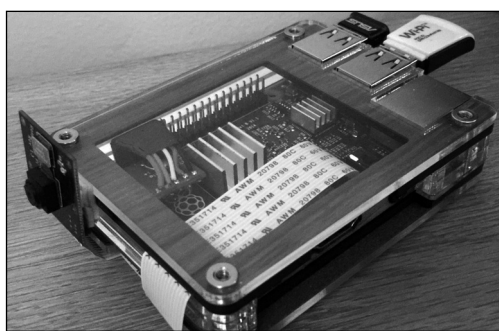
"Some of the group members were worried that we might get complacent because we won first place," said Jung, "but it was actually a great stepping stone for us to really take our music to the next level ... we can deliver even more emotions and a great performance for them."

"We've had to be on our game for awhile, because usually after ICCA we have our Spring Show and ... the stress is over, but we've had to keep going this whole time," informed Alexander. "I think it's made us better. It's made a us work a lot harder."

Last weekend the Rusty Pipes traveled to Boston to participate in the ICCA semi-finals. This will be their third time, their latest being 2011. ◇

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Programming brings fun



Courtesy of RPI Embedded Hardware Club

Mark Blanco
A Special to The Poly

ALMOST EVERY WEDNESDAY THIS SEMESTER, THE Embedded Hardware Club has hosted one-to-two hour workshops on subjects of interest to its members. Last week was no exception; Club President John Drogo '16 ran an interesting and innovative workshop to show members how to read and decode a microprocessor assembly at the club's lab in Russell Sage Laboratory 2202. Microprocessor assembly languages function by

mapping directly to the underlying hardware CPU instruction sets. Assemblers can take in human-readable assembly code and produce machine code.

Those members who succeeded that night found a secret message written into the program. Whether they succeeded or not, all participants walked away with excitement and satisfaction due to the new understanding of programming for embedded hardware they gained from the workshop.

Previous workshops have covered topics ranging from the design of custom printed circuit boards to the use of the popular Raspberry Pi single-board computer as an embedded controller. The variety of themes and the combination of professional skills with interesting topics and sections help members cultivate a stronger interest in club activities and passion for electric circuits. The coming workshop will be today at 6 pm in the Mercer Lab on the sixth floor of the Jonsson Engineering Center, and will be a joint effort between the EHC and the Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers to teach students the often overlooked, but incredibly necessary art of soldering electronics projects. ◇

Please Join Us in Congratulating the
2016-2017 Resident Director, Resident Assistant & Learning Assistant
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The Office of Residence Life

Providing leadership, community, and peer education for the Residential Commons

SOFTBALL

Engineers take six of last eight games

Maria Kozdroy
Senior Reporter

THREE DOUBLEHEADERS IN FIVE DAYS MAY SOUND LIKE A DIFFICULT CHALLENGE, but the softball team walked out with five wins and just nine walks over all six games.

The first set of games were away at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh with two wins: 2-1 and 6-5. Sophomore right fielder Devan Puhl led the Engineers offense with three hits—two of which were doubles—and two RBIs leading the Engineers to a 2-1 victory.

Junior pitcher Stephanie Caudle, yet playing as a designated hitter for the second game, led the Engineers to a 6-5 victory with four hits in four at bats. She doubled down the right field line in the top of the third to score teammate junior left fielder Morgan Kollmeier; Caudle singled in the seventh to have Kollmeier come into home again.

The Engineers came back to Robison Field in Troy to play the Rochester Institute of Technology Tigers. Caudle pitched the entire game, facing 28 batters and allowing only six hits and three runs with eight strikeouts, earning a 5-3 win for the team.

In the second game against the Tigers, the Engineers were on fire, starting early in the game with junior third baseman Courtney McArthur homering to left field in the second. The next inning, the Engineers scored five runs with the help of senior first baseman Morgan Ten Eyck singling to right center to have senior catcher Taylor Ten Eyck come in. The Tigers scored only one run later in the sixth, with the final score of the six inning game in favor of the Engineers, 9-1.

This past Sunday, the Engineers faced the University of Rochester Yellowjackets and lost a tough one at 0-8 only having two hits off. The Engineers suffered from three errors in the second, fourth, and seventh innings, specifically with sophomore shortstop Kacie Herity. Of the five Engineers that were able to get on base, Herity was one of them.

Two hours later on Sunday, the Engineers rebounded for the second game against Rochester, winning 6-5. The Engineers scored early on in the game with three runs; one of the notable hits of the first was with sophomore second baseman Victoria Greco scoring Caudle.

The Engineers are 18-6 with Tuesday's 7-6 win and 3-8 loss at Williams College. The Engineers travel upstate this Saturday to St. Lawrence University for their seventh to last game of the season. ♦

HOCKEY

Kasdorf wears RPI mask and pads for NHL debut

Erica Braunschweig
Staff Reporter

ON FRIDAY, APRIL 8, FORMER RPI GOALIE JASON Kasdorf made his NHL debut in a start for the Buffalo Sabres at the First Niagara Center in Buffalo. Kasdorf played reasonably well in his first professional appearance, stopping 26 of the 30 shots he faced. However, the game ended 4-1 in favor of the visiting Columbus Blue Jackets. It may not have been the ideal start to his professional career, but the game was a valuable experience for Kasdorf.

He got off to a strong start for the Sabres, stopping the first ten shots he faced. However, late in the first period, Blue Jackets left-wing Matt Calvert found the back of the net with a blast from the left faceoff circle that hit the far goalpost and careened into the net.

In the second period, Kasdorf didn't see a lot of action. The Sabres managed eighteen shots on goal, while the Blue Jackets had just six. But, out of those six shots, two of them got past Kasdorf and into the Sabres' net. On the first goal of the period, the Sabres gave up the puck down low on the right side of their defensive zone. They then played sloppy defense, leaving Blue Jackets captain Nick Foligno wide open on the left side of the net to beat Kasdorf.

The second goal of the period came off a three-on-two. Defenseman Dalton Prout ripped a shot from the top of the left faceoff circle that beat Kasdorf high on the glove side, making the score three to one.

The Blue Jackets last goal came with just under five minutes gone in the third period, when the Sabres defense again let Kasdorf down. With the puck behind the net, Blue Jackets forward Brandon Saad was left completely uncovered just in front of the goal crease. Saad received a quick pass and put the puck past Kasdorf before he could react. On the play Sabres defenseman Rasmus Ristolainen was out of position. Not only did he not cover Saad, he stood directly in front of Kasdorf, blocking the goaltender's view of the puck.

Two out of the four goals that Kasdorf let in were stoppable. That being said, it would be unrealistic to expect Kasdorf to play flawlessly in his first professional game. The speed of an NHL game is much faster than a college game, and the shots players take are a lot harder. As Kasdorf begins his professional career, it'll take some time for him to get used to his new, more powerful environment. After the game, which was the Sabres' second to last game of the season, Kasdorf talked about how he was thankful for the ice time because he now knows what he needs to improve on over the summer. It will be exciting to see what he can accomplish next season after preparing and getting acclimated to his new surroundings this summer. ♦

The Poly would like to apologize to Austin Miller for misspelling his name our April 11, 2016 issue.

UNION after dark Performances,
UNION after dark Dance Party,
UNION after dark Vermonster,
UNION after dark Activities,
UNION after dark Contests,
UNION after dark Prizes,
UNION after dark & Food

April 29th
9 PM – 1 AM
 contact: modya@rpi.edu

Sports

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

BASEBALL

Engineers come alive against Skidmore College



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic (file photo)

THE ENGINEERS SCORED 46 runs, twice as many runs as opponents, and 11 in one single inning, this past week bringing their overall record up to 9-16 and 8-4 in the Liberty League.

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reporter

THE ENGINEERS' BASEBALL TEAM FOUND ITS GROOVE THIS PAST weekend when they went up against Skidmore College in two doubleheaders, going 3-1 against the Thoroughbreds.

Saturday was not a day to be a Thoroughbred fan, as the Engineer's racked up a stunning eleven runs in the first inning.

Through a combination of walks and some nicely placed hits, RPI sent fifteen players to the plate each, nearly batting around twice before the inning ended. This put the Engineers in a comfy lead for the remainder of the game, one which Skidmore would not come close to challenging.

Runs from Skidmore came in the second and fifth innings, but it was nowhere near enough to threaten the commanding lead that the Engineers had created. Saturday's first game ended in a massive 15-2 win for Rensselaer.

Game two told a different story, one in which both teams struggled to make offensive progress in the early innings of the game.

Skidmore catcher Hayden Smith reached first base in the bottom of the fourth due to an error by Rensselaer. Then, right fielder Josh Brown singled to left field, allowing Smith to advance. Smith scored, unearned, on an RPI error, putting the Thoroughbreds up 1-0. Later in the same inning, third baseman Mike Fogarty flew out to centerfield, allowing Brown to scamper home.

It took until the top of the sixth inning for the Engineers to get a hit, quite contrary to their earlier game. The dry streak was broken by sophomore J.T. Sawyer, who singled to left. Sophomore Weston Hawkins then hit a long double down the right field line, allowing Sawyer to put the Engineers on the board.

Rensselaer came alive in the late innings of the game, scoring four runs in the top of the seventh and adding five more in the top of the eighth. Skidmore could only answer with one run in the bottom of the seventh, allowing the Engineers to win 10-5 and sweep Saturday's games.

Skidmore started Sunday's first game with two runs in the second. However, Rensselaer answered in the bottom of the fourth with two runs of their own, tying the game 2-2.

Junior Sam Lawrence put the Engineers in the lead in the fifth, sending sophomore Christian Spagnuola, who had doubled earlier, home on an error by Skidmore second baseman Nick Fronte.

The Thoroughbreds were not about to let the Engineers take another game from them; however, they managed to score a total of five runs in the final two innings, and held on to win 7-3 over RPI.

Rensselaer established a lead in the first inning of game four, when Hawkins scored off of a fly out to right field from Lawrence. Hawkins scored again in the second, this time thanks to a single to left field by Spagnuola.

Skidmore answered in the top of the fifth with a run to make the score 2-1. But, the Engineers answered with four of their own in the bottom of the inning to extend their lead to 6-1. Skidmore threatened to steal the game away from RPI in the top of the ninth, but were shut down before they could take the lead. The game ended 7-5 in favor of the Engineers.

Rensselaer is back in action at Rochester Institute of Technology this weekend. ♦

TRACK & FIELD

Second place victory over Tufts and Bates

Michael Baird
Senior Reporter

IN AN EXHILARATING RACE FOR FIRST PLACE IN THE men's 400 meters that was ultimately decided by a separation of eight thousandths of a second, RPI freshman Jason Hall was declared the winner after crossing side by side with junior Max Drexler. Theirs was the second-fastest heat of the 400 on Saturday at Massachusetts Institute of Technology's quad meet, earning them fifth and sixth overall after the running of the final heat. Overall, the Engineers placed runner up to the host, with the men earning 157 points to MIT's 227, and the women scoring 155-206.5.

Reigning Division III discus champion senior Tyler Yeastedt now holds the season record after placing first in the event on Saturday with his mark of 49.96 meters. Also, at the meet, he challenged 21 others in the shot put and finished runner-up with his throw of 14.66 meters.

Also setting a record was sophomore Jaime Lord, who won the women's 1500 meter race with her school record-setting time of 4:32.12. Establishing personal records alongside her

were junior Maddie Dery and senior Loki Rasmussen who placed third and fifth respectively.

Racing his first 1500 of the season, junior Ben Fazio was victorious against 22 others with his time of 3:54.04. Coming in two seconds behind him in second was freshman Grant O'Connor.

For the first time in his collegiate career, freshman Sean O'Connor took on the 5000 meters and posted an intimidating 15:04.32 to finish second. Junior Matthew Ciccio sprinted in to finish in 15:05.72 two spots back, in fourth. The top-placer for RPI in the women's 5000 was junior Allison Thayer, who ran a personal record time of 18:36.90, beating her previous by almost 20 seconds.

The women's 400 was won by MIT; however, junior Sabrina Ahamparam reached the line third in 1:03.99. Senior Alexa Sakorafos and junior Jodi Wrzosek came in fourth and fifth respectively in the women's 800. Junior Garrett Davis was fourth in the men's with 1:58.26.

Freshman Rory McCarthy competed in both hurdles, taking third in the men's 110

meter hurdles in 16.68 and sixth in the men's 400 meter hurdles in 58.13. Sophomore Caroline Howes placed fourth in the women's 400 meter hurdles. Later, in the women's 4 x 400 meter relay at the end of the meet, both Rensselaer's A and B teams finished one after another in second and third.

Running in both sprints were sophomore Monica Mazur and junior Sara Khedr. Both finished back-to-back in fifth and sixth respectively in the 100 meter dash. Mazur sprinted to fourth in 27.23 in the 200, while Khedr finished sixth. Sophomore Jan Bartos earned fifth in the men's 100 and sixth overall in the men's 200.

The outstanding high jumper of the meet was junior Erik Trinkle, who attained a winning height of 1.88 meters, or six feet two inches. He came close to scratching at 1.83 meters following two strikes, but on his final attempt, he cleared the bar and went on to surpass the final mark on his first try while his three remaining opponents all failed after three attempts each. Teammate Max Maritato was the runner-up, at the mark where Trinkle nearly scratched.

The Engineers also found favor in the women's high jump, where freshman Lauren Parker cleared the bar at 1.53 meters to place second. In the triple jump, junior Vicky Buehler took third with her jump of 10.36 meters.

Sophomore Matt Vitagliano was fifth in the men's long jump with his mark of 6.23 meters. Senior Nathan Ogilvie and freshman Joseph Vetere took third and fourth in the pole vault. Senior Mike Pensanello led the hammer throw with his third-place 51.37 meter mark. Junior Joe Grella was third in the javelin with his throw of 49.16 meters.

Senior Andrea Ukleja established a fourth-place shot put mark of 11.07 meters in the shadow of three MIT frontrunners. She also competed in the hammer throw, where she placed third with her 42.34 meter mark. In the discus, she was one of a group of four to place third through sixth.

The first home meet of the season will be this Saturday beginning at 11 am at Harkness Field. The Engineers will visit Connecticut College the preceding day to participate in the Silfen Invitational. ♦