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Ilori, Kirchner



elected GM, PU

GRAND MARSHAL WEEK

Student government elections come to close

Justin Etzine
Senior Reporter

FRIDAY, APRIL 15 SAW THE ANNOUNCEMENT of election results for all offices elected during Grand Marshal Week 2016.

Former senator Paul Ilori '17 was elected GM by 56.4 percent of the vote over Dan Rogers '17, and former Executive Board Representative Chip Kirchner '17 won President of the Union against Shannon Gillespie McComb '17, Keegan Caraway '18, and Liam McEaney '17 with 46.6 percent of the vote.

Running unopposed, Eryka Greaves '17 was elected Undergraduate Council President with 83.7 percent of the vote.

GM Week Elections are held annually, with final elections typically occurring on the Thursday of GM Week. Voters are given a collectible glass mug for voting, and the Student Senate's Rules & Elections committee oversees the campaigning and elections processes.

For alumni positions, former PU Nick Dvorak '16 was elected alumni president, former GM Marcus Flowers '16 was elected alumni vice president, Margaret Murphy '16 was elected alumni secretary, and former UP Kelly Dearborn '16 was elected alumni treasurer. Tasked with planning alumni reunions, alumni class positions are lifetime positions.

For independent and Greek positions, Samantha Notley '18

and Tianyi Qiao '18 were elected as independent senators, and Hannah Rabinowitz '18 and Marvin Cosare '18 were elected as Greek senators for the Panhellenic Council and the Interfraternity Council, respectively.

For the Class of 2017, Kyle Neumann '17 was re-elected Class of 2017 president, and Michael Gardner '17 was re-elected Class of 2017 vice president through a write-in campaign. Austin Miller '17, Erica Braunschweig '17, Joseph Venusto '17, and CJ Markum '17 were elected as Class of 2017 senators. Alexander Peixinho '17, Trevor Corrado '17, Emily Phillips '17, Brian Priem '17, Marcus Barbret '17, Samuel Waddell '17, Parker Reno '17, and Ryan Bailey '17 were elected as Class of 2017 representatives; Peixinho was the only candidate on the ballot.

For the Class of 2018, Brenna Buckley '18 and Sean Waclawik '18 were elected as president and vice president, respectively. For the Class of 2018 senators, Justin Etzine '18, Matthew Heimlich '18, Steven Sperazza '18, and Richard Lin '18 were elected. Ellie Mees '18, Youssef Elasser '18, Yueze Li '18, Stefanie Warner '18, Gwen Diebold '18, Xing Tong '18, Daniel Gorman '18, Kayla Cinnamon '18, and Mark Beston '18 were elected as Class of 2018 representatives, where the latter five were write-in candidates.

For the Class of 2019, Vignesh Babu '19 and Colin Williamson '19 were elected as president and vice president, respectively. Kyle Waters '19, Nancy Bush '19, Caleb Caraway '19, and Pamela Pulla '19 were elected as Class of 2019 senators in the most contested senate race of the election cycle. Colin Atkinson '19, Chris McCulloch '19, Benjamin Morrison '19, Jeffrey Rong '19, David Tamir '19, Thomas Jansson '19, Mark Birkbeck '19, and Yuvraj Chopra '19 were elected Class of 2019 representatives.

Graduate students Michael Caiola, Anthony Ashley, Brandon Bensele, Ainsley Pinkowitz, Jordan Angel, and Anthony Bishop were elected as graduate senators. Graduate students Amanda Youmans, Jennifer Church, Spencer Scott, Brandon Bensele, Emily Aaldenberg, and Kelly Jenkins were elected as graduate representatives.

A total of four sanctions were issued by R&E during the 2016 election cycle. Kirchner received a sanction for repeated posting of posters on the footbridge sign holders, which carried a penalty of extra service hours. Chopra saw his collected nominations nullified by a sanction for repeat violations of the rule that bars active campaigning in dining halls. Licata, Gillespie McComb, and Braunschweig received an extra hour of community service for not including takedown and contact information on all visible sides of their posters; Licata received a second



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNION NICK DVORAK '16 PLACES the Derby on top of newly-elected PU Chip Kirchner '17.

sanction for not including a takedown date on his posters.

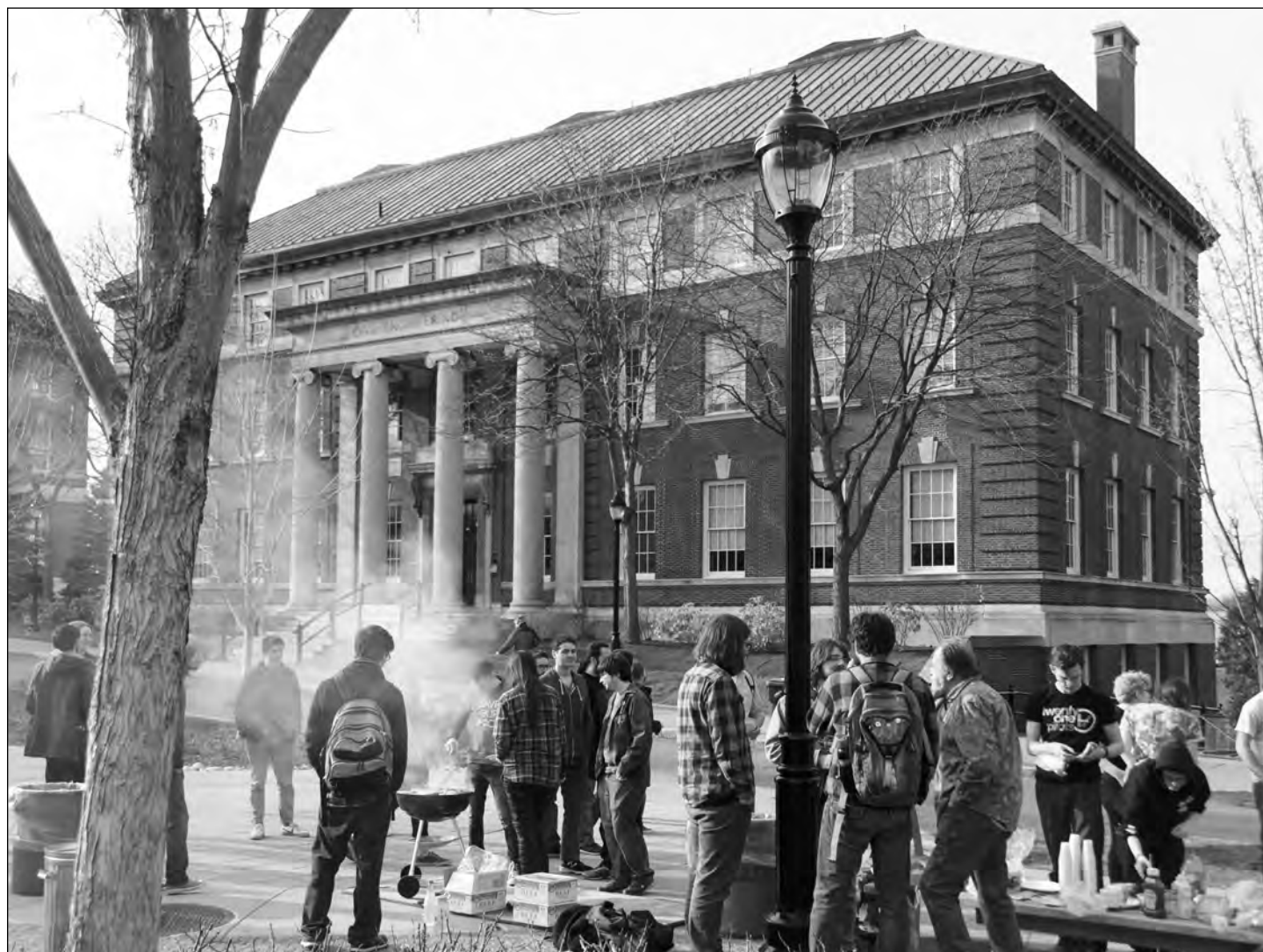
R&E and the Judicial Board released a number of decisions during the campaigning season, many of which involve the submission, or lack thereof, of required campaign forms or the waiving of grade point averages for various positions. An article describing all decisions can be found at <http://poly.rpi.edu/s/uacc6/>.

R&E also saw a late change in leadership when Victoria Tong '16, then chairperson of R&E, resigned from her position, leading the committee's Vice-Chairperson Hannah Rabinowitz '18 to assume the role as acting chairperson.

The full election results can be found online at <http://poly.rpi.edu/s/qiz3d/>. ♦

STUDENT ACTIVISM

Protesters rally outside Troy Building to BBQ



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

STUDENTS HOST a cook-out barbeque outside of the Troy Building in a continuing act to protest the RPI administration.

Maria Kozdroy
Senior Reporter

PROFESSOR BILL PUKA AND STUDENTS HELD a barbeque in front of the Troy Building last Wednesday to continue the Save the Union movement. Snow postponed the event from the originally scheduled date of Wednesday, April 6.

Posters announcing the event went up around campus in the week prior.

Sean Lewis '19, expressed that he was glad to be part of the movement, as he wore his red Save the Union shirt.

The event had groups of students ranging from freshmen to seniors enjoying the weather, talking about school, the then upcoming elections, and more.

This event comes after the Save the Union protest that occurred on Wednesday, March 30 outside the Spring Town Meeting. Students, faculty, and alumni came together in front of the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center to speak out about grievances with the Rensselaer administration.

During the March 30 protest, students packed the EMPAC Theater to hear President Shirley Ann Jackson speak and answer questions about the recently-listed Executive Director of Student Activities position and the state of Rensselaer's finances. More information about the March 30 protest can be found at <http://poly.rpi.edu/s/87zod/>. ♦

WORLD NEWS

Ecuador hit by 7.8 magnitude earthquake

Nathan Dorer
Senior Reporter

ON SATURDAY, APRIL 16, A 7.8 MAGNITUDE earthquake shook much of Ecuador, injuring nearly 2,500 and leaving the current death toll at 246. While Ecuador is in an area of high seismic activity, this quake serves to be the largest that the country has experienced since 1979. The tremors from the quake were felt nearly 200 miles from its epicenter and damaged infrastructure in the major cities of Muisine, Manta, Portoviejo, and Pedernales. In response, Ecuadorian Vice President Jorge Glas has declared a state of emergency, and consequently 10,000 soldiers and 4,600 police officers have been deployed to the affected areas.

The quake struck nearly 17 miles south of Muisine, and the U.S. Geological Survey has reported that it took place at the relatively shallow depth of 11.9 miles. Ecuador lies in an area of high seismic activity known as the “Ring of Fire.” This area serves as the boundary between the Nazca and South American tectonic plates, where the Nazca plate is currently being subjected under the South American plate at a rate of 65 mm each year. It is the act of these tectonic plates rubbing against each other that caused the earthquake, in addition to the more than 130 aftershocks that have taken place.

As it stands, much of the communication within the country is currently down. However, all major phone companies have extended free text messaging to the area to allow families to contact missing members. Currently, the government has been able to offer food and other essentials to those impacted by the disaster, and aid has begun to arrive from Venezuela and Mexico. Additionally, Colombian officials have announced that they will provide search teams and dogs to



Courtesy of Andes/César Muñoz

LOCALS SURVEY the ruins in their neighborhood after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake devastated Ecuador on April 16, 2016.

Ecuador, in addition to the Colombian navy carrying water to affected coastal towns.

The tourist destination Pedernales is reported to have encountered the most damage from the earthquake. The mayor of the town, Gabriel Alcivar, issued a statement in which he stated that the “entire town” had been flattened and also urged residents to be cautious of the looting that had broken out in light of the disaster. Alcivar stated in an interview

with the BBC that they are “trying to do the most [they] can but there's almost nothing [they] can do.” As it stands, landslides near Pedernales have made it incredibly difficult to assess the area, and heavy rainfall is expected.

The disaster that has struck Ecuador serves to be one of the worst in the country’s long history of earthquakes. Since the turn of the century, the region has encountered seven

earthquakes that have measured above 7.0 on the Richter scale, although the current events have proven to be among the most deadly quakes, due in part to its proximity to major cities. Ecuador has proven to be devastated by the events, and the country looks to recover in the coming months.

The information from this article was gathered from various sources including the BBC, CNN, and Slate. ♦

WEIRD OFF THE WIRE

Veteran required to fill out amputee form annually

Master Corporal Paul Franklin lost his legs during a tour with the Canadian Armed Forces in 2006. Each year he is required to fill out a form stating that his legs are still missing. “It’s been 10 years and they still haven’t figured out I’m an amputee,” said Franklin.

Man fights same-sex marriage by trying to marry his laptop

A Texas man filed a lawsuit against the Harris County district clerk for denying him the right to marry his Macbook Pro. He is arguing that same-sex marriage, now legal in the U.S. after a Supreme Court ruling, is equal to man marrying machine.

Construction vehicles duke out dispute in China

Construction workers in China resolved their differences through front end loader jousting. The dispute ended with at least two of the heavy machines toppled on their sides.

The best way to celebrate a honeymoon is with soup

In a televised town hall event, Heidi Cruz, wife of Republican presidential hopeful Ted Cruz, admitted that her husband went out and purchased 100 cans of Campbell’s Chunky soup upon return from their honeymoon.

Cockroaches survive bug spray-induced explosion

Fumes from a bug-killing spray built up in a New Jersey apartment, causing an explosion that blew out the windows and broke the door. The cockroaches in the apartment survived the explosion.

Golf ban lifted in China

Called the “sport for millionaires” by Mao Zedong, golf was banned in China in 2015 as part of president Xi Jinping’s anti-corruption push. The ban was lifted this past week, with state newspapers saying, “Since it is only a sport, there is no right or wrong about playing golf.”

State helicopter used to retrieve wallet

A police helicopter was used to retrieve the wallet of Governor of Alabama Robert Bentley. His wallet was forgotten at home when he took a trip to his beach house, and was later delivered to him via helicopter.

Sprinklers drench movie goers at Tennessee Titans stadium

The Tennessee Titans hosted a movie night during the off-season, where fans could sit on the field and watch a movie on the video board. However, the stadium forgot to disable the automatic sprinkler system, drenching fans mid-movie.

RENSSELAER

Department
of
Cognitive
Science

Vollmer W. Fries Lecture Series

All Vollmer Fries Lectures are Open to the General Public

April 20, 2016

12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

EMPAC Studio Beta

Robert J. Sternberg,
Professor of Human Development, Cornell University

“In Search of the Zipperump-a-Zoo:
What I Have Learned from 40 Years of Research on Intelligence”

ABSTRACT:

In a children’s book, Professor Wormbog searches all over the world for a Zipperump-a-Zoo, which turns out to be hiding in plain sight. In my career studying intelligence, I have searched for an understanding of the construct of intelligence, which also hides in plain sight. It is there in almost all of our daily interactions for all of us to see. The main point of my talk is that as a scientific career progresses, not only do the problems one studies change, but also the questions one asks become increasingly broad and deep.



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Sports

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

TRACK & FIELD

Fazio breaks school record

Michael Baird
Senior Reporter

EIGHTEEN SCHOOLS GATHERED at Harkness Track & Field on Saturday to run, jump, vault, and throw at the Upstate Classic, the first home track and field meet of the season hosted by Rensselaer. Of the 20 events held for both men and women, 12 were won by Engineers.

Five distance athletes who did not compete at RPI raced the previous day at Connecticut College's Silfen Invitational. Junior Ben Fazio broke the Institute record for the men's 5000 meters with his time of 14:27.62. Freshman Grant O'Connor, who came in runner-up to Fazio, also broke the former record in 14:34.65. Sophomore Jaime Lord destroyed the women's 5000 meter record with her time of 16:41.39, while junior Maddie Dery placed third with a personal record time of 17:02.14 and senior Shannon Trant claimed sixth in 17:19.24.

On Saturday, two distance events and three throwing events were won by the men's team. The women's team won eight total events: three distance, three throwing, one relay, and one hurdling.

The meet began at 11 am with the running of the women's 3000 meter Steeplechase, led by junior Allison Thayer from the moment the starting gun was fired. With an early lead, Thayer surged ahead with every passing lap, increasing her gap on runner-up Sarah Dimakis of Hamilton College. After winning the race in 12:03.11, Thayer had helped the Engineers off to a strong start early on.

In the men's 3000 meter Steeplechase, freshman Sean O'Connor took off to an early lead that would help him finish far ahead of the rest

of the field in 9:44.77. Behind him, junior Christopher Angelo maintained a steady pace that helped him avoid falling back too far behind O'Connor to finish second. O'Connor will compete again in the Steeplechase next weekend at the Liberty League Championship.

"Overcoming the barriers is something that I still need to work on," said O'Connor. "I try to look past the barrier, accelerate into it, focus on my form and land smoothly."

"I still do the same workouts as the other distance guys on the team. At the end of workouts and practices though, I work on hurdling or the water jump."

Eight of the top ten runners in the women's 1500 meters were RPI athletes. Senior Alexa Sakorafos, senior Loki Rasmussen, and junior Jodi Wrzosek finished first, second, third overall. In the first heat, senior Isabel Johnson clung to the leader to finish runner-up.

Crossing the line in first and second respectively in the men's 1500 were juniors Colin Smith and Garrett Davis. Their times of 4:03.73 and 4:05.02 are testaments to their lasting endurance.

Junior Mary West was the champion of the women's 5000 meter run. She was the only competitor from RPI in the 12.5 lap race, which made the race more challenging for her, but also equally, if not more exciting.

"The 5000 is my favorite event," said West. "The most fun part about the race this past weekend was winning, since I haven't ever won a race in college before. The most difficult part was ... having to run the entire thing alone [but] for my first race this season with some not so ideal circumstances, coming out with my first collegiate victory was pretty exciting."

Victorious in the women's 400 meter hurdles was sophomore Caroline Howes. Junior Sara Khedr placed second in both the women's 200 meter dash and 400 meter dash. She was also the third leg of the first place 4 x 100 meter relay team, running with juniors Haley Hahn and Monica Mazur and freshman Vera Titze.

Competing in three throwing events, senior Andrea Ukleja threw 11.93 meters in the shot put to take first place. She later took second in the hammer throw with her mark of 45.82 meters and placed sixth in discus.

Freshman Aurora Freedman sent the javelin the farthest of 16 throwers with her mark of 34.99 meters. RPI also won the men's javelin thanks to senior Tyler Yeastedt's 52.37 meter throw. Marking second behind him was freshman Joseph Vetere.

Yeastedt continued his winning streak in the discus and the shot put. He threw 53.57 meters in the discus and 15.43 meters in the shot put. In the hammer throw, he took second with 54.91 meters. Junior Mike Pensanello came in third in both the shot put and the hammer throw.

In the men's pole vault, both freshman Joseph Vetere and senior Nathaniel Ogilvie vaulted over the bar at 4.05 meters to tie for second. Freshmen Jillian Salkind and Lauren Parker also reached the same height of 1.54 meters in the women's high jump, placing second and fourth respectively.

Liberty League Outdoor Championships will take place this Saturday at St. Lawrence University, where the Engineers will work to qualify athletes for the New York Track Conference Championship beginning on May 1. ♦

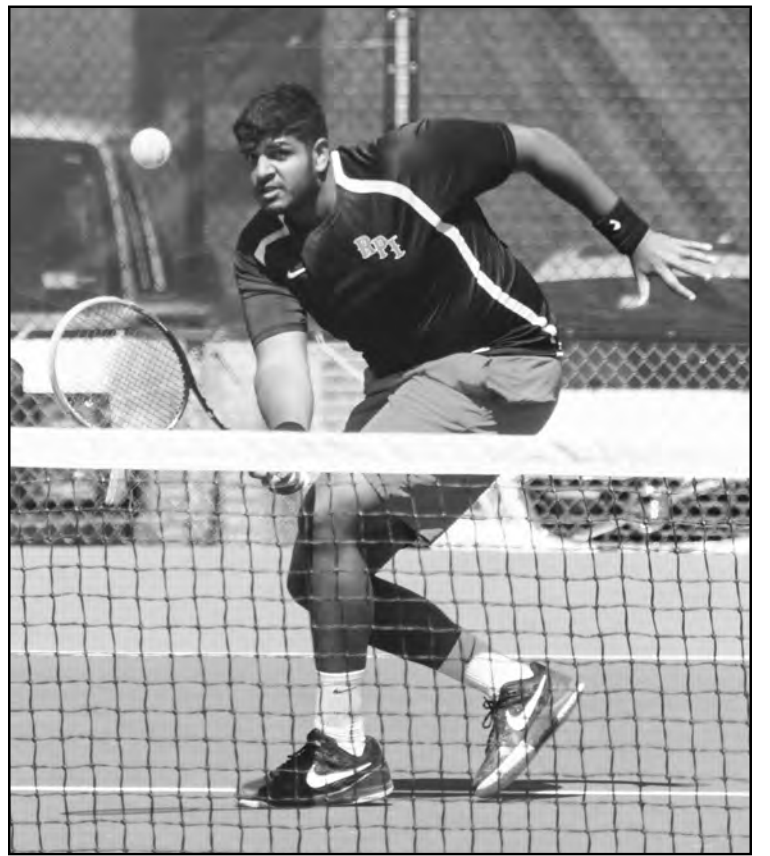


Michael Baird/The Polytechnic

FRESHMAN SEAN O'CONNOR SETS a new personal record in the men's 3000 meter Steeplechase.

TENNIS

RPI falls to Saints



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

SOPHMORE SUNDAR DEVIKOTTAI LOST a close doubles match 9-8 against the St. Lawrence Saints with freshman Suryansh Patel.

Joseph Saulsbery
Senior Reporter

BOTH THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAMS STRUGGLED AGAINST ST. LAWRENCE University last weekend at the Sharp Courts. First, on Saturday afternoon, the men lost by a final score of 7-2. Then, Sunday morning, the women lost all but one of their matches to the number 37 ranked Saints. The Engineers' lone win of the weekend came on Sunday afternoon when the men won a tight 5-4 duel against the Vassar Brewers.

The Engineers started off well against the Saints when the first doubles team of senior Alain Grullon Gonzalez and sophomore Tristan Wise rolled to an easy 8-3 victory. But, soon after the match was tied when the Saints' third doubles team of Paul Barrett and Dean Sponholz won their match by the same margin. Later, St. Lawrence's second doubles team of Spencer Whitmire and Rhonny Rosario pulled out the last of the doubles matches 9-8 in a tiebreaker over sophomore Sundar Devakottai and freshman Suryansh Patel.

In singles, Wise won again at first by a score of 6-1, 6-3. But this was the lone victory for the Engineers. Three of the others were close, though. Baxter fought back after losing the first set 6-1, but came up just short in the second, falling 7-6. Patel seemed to be cruising in his fifth singles matchup, winning the first set 6-0. But, St. Lawrence's Kevin Frommer came back to win each of the next two sets, 6-4, 6-3. Last came Grullon Gonzalez, who lost by a just a few points in the third set of his second singles matchup against Rosario. The final score of that match was 3-6, 6-4, 10-7.

The women's match started with an 8-0 victory for the Saints at third doubles. The other two doubles matches were much closer. At the second, St. Lawrence's pairing of Emily Wyman and Hallie Young won a close match over freshman Erica Frommer and graduate Emily Aaldenburg, 9-7. The first doubles pairing of senior Emily Laurilliard and sophomore Melanie Frank pulled out a hard-earned 9-8 win.

RPI lost all of the singles matches against the Saints. However, both Frommer at first and Laurilliard at second fought valiantly. Frommer won the first set of her match handily, 6-1. But her opponent Morgan McNeal improved in the second set, winning 6-3. The final set was a tiebreaker that went down to the wire, but in the end McNeal earned the victory 10-8. Laurilliard persevered after losing the first set 6-1, prolonging the match by winning the second set 6-3. But, like Frommer, she fell 10-8 in the decisive tiebreaker.

Vassar took the first point against RPI on Sunday afternoon, winning third doubles by a final score of 8-3. The Engineers stormed back with wins from Wise and Grullon Gonzalez at first doubles and seniors Sherman Uyeno and Anthony Kim at second.

In singles, Wise won 6-3, 6-1 to put Rensselaer up 3-1. But, soon after, wins by Vassar at fourth and fifth singles evened the score. RPI would not be deterred, though, as Uyeno secured a 7-5, 6-4 win at second to put the Engineers one point away from victory.

Grullon Gonzalez delivered that point at third singles. After losing the first set in a tiebreaker, he took control of the match, winning the final two sets 6-2 each.

Men's tennis improves to 6-7 overall and 3-2 in the Liberty League while women's tennis falls to 5-8 overall and 2-2 in the Liberty League. Next up for women's tennis is a home match against William Smith college on Sunday morning. The men will play at Union College at 4 pm today. ♦

Editorial

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

Protecting the liberties of a true democracy

AN OPEN AND PROTECTED DISCOURSE is vital to a healthy democracy. Documents released over the past few years have revealed that the surveillance and monitoring capabilities of the United States government are far more advanced than previously known.

Even if the capabilities are simply theoretical, they have a dangerous effect on the U.S. and the world. The government would not have to actually possess any of the capabilities that the leaks have described. Simply allowing the world to believe that the capabilities exist is enough to cause a chilling effect on a significant portion of the world's population.

Many of the capabilities are designed to target non-state actors. They operate under the policy of soaking up all the information they can and later sifting through it to find interesting data points.

Because of this, journalists, government dissenters, and everyday citizens within the U.S. or an allied country should assume that their communications are readily accessible to authorities.

According to a report published by the PEN American Center at

<http://poly.rpi.edu/s/w37w1/>, 16 percent of writers surveyed "have avoided writing or speaking about a particular topic, and another 11 percent have seriously considered it" due to the climate effected by pervasive electronic surveillance. Additionally, "24 percent have deliberately avoided certain topics in phone or email conversations, and another 9 percent have seriously considered it."

The United States enjoys one of the most liberal freedom of expression regimes in the world. According to the courts, the government cannot suppress speech by reason of its going against a desired narrative, unpopularity, or dislike. However, the burgeoning internet surveillance apparatus is causing speakers to self-censor and suppress their own speech.

As people censor themselves in their communications, unpopular and divergent opinions will begin to disappear. If we cannot communicate without fear of a third-party monitoring our messages, the diversity of opinions will decrease. Eventually, all but mainstream ideas will cease to exist even in the minds

of those who once thought them.

Without a wide variety of opinions in the commons, a democracy is no longer vibrant. The state becomes self-perpetuating and closed to change. The people lose their voices.

We must do everything that we can to ensure that these trends reverse. If you have something to say, say it as loudly as you can. Make sure your message can be heard. Use encrypted systems that are designed to prevent anyone besides the sender and recipient from viewing the contents of your communications. Call your representatives in Congress and tell them to oppose legislation such as the Burr-Feinstein Compliance with Court Orders Act of 2016 and instead support strong encryption and a less invasive surveillance system, for a stronger democracy. And, when the next bill comes around, call again. And if that doesn't work, vote them out of office.

We are on a slippery slope toward the end of meaningful peaceful dissent. But we can fight back by adopting more secure methods of communication and supporting political candidates who understand the importance of and will fight for privacy. Our country depends on it. ♦



Sidney Kochman
Photography Editor

CABINET

Communicating in light of the recent campus events

SINCE BECOMING VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT LIFE, I have had the opportunity to meet so many students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community members who have proudly displayed their affection for Rensselaer.

During the past few weeks, I have witnessed individuals and groups engaging in dialogue, articulating their values, and reaffirming their commitment to this institution. While there is not always agreement, I do believe that everyone is united in this commitment. One thing that I have learned is that there has not been effective communication between Student Life and our students. Communication—including all parties—is essential for this community to maximize its success and achieve shared goals. This involves sharing information and building trust—and the willingness to admit when things are not working.

It is my goal to improve the relationship between students and Student Life, and I want to hear feedback from students about their experience—so that we can work together in enhancing the student experience for current and future Rensselaer students. I am committing to a number of initiatives to increase interaction and hopefully improve communication between Student Life and students:

1. Development of a Vice President for Student Life Advisory Committee, comprised of students, including the Chair of the Student Life Committee of Student Senate;

2. Clearly identify opportunities to engage students in the Student Life performance planning process;

3. Addition of an online mechanism for students to

submit ideas related to enhancing the student experience that will be discussed with Student Life directors;

4. Regularly scheduled open student forums between the Vice President for Student Life, Student Life staff, and students;

5. Monthly discussions in the Commons—residential commons, Greek life commons, and off campus commons for students to raise questions or issues of concern;

6. Opportunities in every Student Life department for student input;

7. Continued opportunities for student involvement and feedback in search processes for Student Life leadership positions;

8. Regularly scheduled open "drop in" office hours for students to meet with the Vice President for Student Life.

Upon reflection, I personally could have provided more opportunities for open discussion around ideas, including the development of the new Executive Director for Student Activities position. I

apologize for any confusion or misunderstanding this caused—particularly to student leaders involved in our Rensselaer Union. Please know it is not anyone's intent to destroy or hurt the Union, diminish student responsibility, or change the way the Union operates. As I commit to strengthening opportunities for feedback and dialogue, I welcome ideas from students on how we can work together to develop and maintain good communication. In that spirit, and because I am quite certain you will have many great ideas of your own, please let me know your thoughts. I look forward to our good work together. ♦



Dr. Frank E. Ross III
Vice President of Student Life

TOP HAT

Giving thanks for a successful campaign

HELLO EVERYONE. YOU CAN'T BELIEVE how honored I am to be elected the 151st Grand Marshal. This is something that I've thought about and wanted for a long time, and I hope that I prove that you have placed your faith in the right person over the next year. I'm sorry that I was not able to be at the results announcement to accept this office in person. I had a prior commitment which was made in November before the election schedule was made, and I wasn't able to get it moved.

First, I'd like to thank my family, friends, and others who have supported me. There's my mom, dad, and brother, who have always supported me and pushed me

to do better. With my friends, there's too many of you to thank individually, but you know who you are. I'm especially thankful to



Paul Ilori
Grand Marshal

Jeremy and Sydney who helped me with tabling, my running-mate and now office-mate, Chip, Sarah, who has helped me since my first elections at this school, Tommy, and many more. Dan, you're still one of my best friends on campus, and you already know nothing's going to change that. Last, and definitely not

least, thanks to the GM Week Committee and the Rules and Elections Committee for the long hours of work you've put in over

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the polytechnic

Editor in Chief

Jack Wellhofer
poly@rpi.edu

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Coordinators

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Stephanie Kern-Allely
Geoff Rosenthal
Sidney Kochman
Geoff Rosenthal
Michael Baird
Joseph Saulsbery
Ana Wishnoff
Stephanie Tan
Kayla Cinnamon

ads@poly.rpi.edu
graphics@poly.rpi.edu
systems@poly.rpi.edu
features@poly.rpi.edu
sports@poly.rpi.edu
sports@poly.rpi.edu
sports@poly.rpi.edu
photo@poly.rpi.edu
social@poly.rpi.edu

Production Staff: Tucker Babcock, Jonathan Caicedo, Chris Leong, and Shane O'Brien

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Views expressed in opinion columns provide differing viewpoints to help balance the newspaper and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editorial Board. These opinion columns, other than those granted to certain student government organizations, are granted on a semesterly or yearly basis by the Editorial Board. Those interested in starting a column should email edop@poly.rpi.edu for details.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

In remembrance of Michele

The Editorial Board of *The Polytechnic* would like to extend our condolences to the family members of Michele Edwards, who suddenly passed away this past Saturday. Michele joined the Rensselaer Union staff in July 2012 and served as an always welcoming, smiling face for the administrative office ever since. It was with shock and great sadness that we learned of her passing.

Many of our staff got to know Michele through our time in the Union. Many editors have, at one point or another, wandered into the office not knowing what

to do or where to go. Whether it was to help fill out forms, find a projector screen, or simply offer some “what should I do next” advice, Michele was always there with a helpful answer. And when she didn’t know, she was determined to find a solution.

She will be sorely missed by all members of the Union. We will be hard-pressed to find anyone who can replace the passion and love she that brought to the Union. *The Polytechnic* was heartbroken to learn of her passing and wishes her and her family well. ♦

DERBY

Bringing in a new Derby

Hi RPI! I’D LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK everyone who came out to vote in our elections last week. It was awesome to get out and meet people as they went to class Thursday morning, and I hope you all got some free chips! I’d also like to thank the people who made this all possible. It was a challenging campaign season and I couldn’t have gotten through it without the support of my campaign team. I can’t help but look forward to what next year will bring for the Rensselaer Union.

This has been a year unlike any other for the Executive Board, and I know that next year we will still be challenged by many of the same issues we have faced these past few months. The Union is such an important aspect of our lives on campus and one of the few ways students have to get together and create a meaningful non-academic experience at RPI. Because of this, I ask that everyone consider applying for the 2016-2017 E-Board. Even if you have never been involved in a Union club or rarely set foot in the building, your opinion and voice are important to what we have. I can almost guarantee that some aspect of the Union’s operations impacts your everyday life here on campus.



Chip Kirchner
President of the Union

I have placed E-Board applications at the welcome desk in the lobby of the Union on the second floor. I have also given several copies to the staff in the administration office on the third floor to hand out to students. Hard copies can be handed in to the

Union Administration Office RU 3702. In addition, I have created a form which can be found at <http://poly.rpi.edu/s/6hfv6>. If anyone has any questions about the process or would like to send an application directly to me, I can be reached at kirchc3@rpi.edu. Students of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply. In fact, it’s vital to the process of choosing an E-Board that I receive as many applications as possible from students across campus. If you are interested in getting more involved in the Union, supporting our student organizations, and taking on major projects for the E-Board and the Union this year, then please fill out the application and get it to me as soon as possible. The deadline for applications this year is Wednesday, April 27. I will schedule interviews with candidates as I receive their applications.

I look forward to a great new year and to having an incredible E-Board team! ♦

Top Hat: Big shoes to fill

From **Page 5**

the past months and especially, last week, organizing and running all the events and the elections.

To the senators and members of the Class of 2017 who have served with me over the past few years, thank you for helping me become the leader and person I am today through your feedback and leading by example. Thank you Chuck, Kyle, and Marcus. You taught me how to bring a team together, how to face difficulties head on, and how to own our mistakes when we recognize them. I hope I’m able to fill the hat as well as you and the 147 other individuals have before us. I also need to thank the members of R&E and the Student Life Committee who served with me over the past couple years. We had some trouble and some fun, but always managed to make progress. Thank you for helping me grow as a leader and dealing with me as I worked out my leadership style for myself.

To the 47th Student Senate, welcome to the club. We’re here at a unique time in the history of our Rensselaer Union and student government. However, the directive we have remains the same: to represent the views, concerns, and wishes of the members of the Union who are our constituents. But overall, what a time to be alive. And, if it’s you and yours, against me and mine, I know where I’m betting my money.

As my term starts, I aim to come through on my promises of increased communication and involvement. I’ll need your help with this. Whether it comes as you asking me or one of your senators a question or concern you have, or you joining one of our Senate committees, which are open to all members of the Union. Student government is nothing without the students, and we need you to not only get involved and help us get work done, but help hold us accountable. ♦

The Poly will be holding open elections for positions on May 8th, 2016.

UNION after dark

Performances,
Dance Party,
Vermonster,
Activities,
Contests,
Prizes,
& Food

April 29th
9 PM – 1 AM

contact: modya@rpi.edu

Events

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

WEDNESDAY

April 20

The Douglas Mercer '77 Electrical, Computer & Systems Engineering Department Lecture Series continues with Boleslaw K. Szymanski. It will be held in Darrin Communications Center 324 from 3:30–5 pm.

The Carl A. Westerdahl Forum presents "Aerospace and Rensselaer: Then, Now, and Tomorrow." It will be in the second floor of Russell Sage Dining Hall from 5:30–7:30 pm.

The Civil and Environmental Engineering Department continues the Spring Seminar series with Anthony R. Ingraffea. It takes place from 1–2 pm in Amos Eaton 214.

THURSDAY

April 21

The CBE Abbott Lecture Series continues with Gregory Stephanopoulos. It is titled "Metabolic Engineering: Synthetic Chemistry of the 21st Century." It will be held from 9:15–10:25 am in the Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies Auditorium.

The Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center hosts Markus Noisternig and his program titled Modern 3D Audio Technologies and the Relationship Between Sound and Space. It will take place from 4–5 pm in EMPAC Studio 2.

EMPAC hosts Amirtha Kidambi's Elder Ones + Longleash. It will take place in EMPAC Studio 2 from 7:30–8:30 pm.

MONDAY

April 25

Dr. Paul Whitford presents "Probing the Energy Landscape of the Ribosome through Simulation" as part of the biological seminar series. It will be held in the CBIS conference center from noon–5 pm. Refreshments served 15 minutes prior.

The Astrophysical Society hosts "Astronomy on the Cutting Edge: The Giant Magellan Telescope." It will take place in the Biotech Auditorium from 3:30–4:30 pm.

The Mathematical Sciences Department hosts Alex Kildishev from Purdue University. It will take place in Amos Eaton 214 from 4–5 pm.



**A CAREER
OF GIVING
DESERVES A
RETIREMENT
WORTH
GETTING.**

Rediscover what makes us
a different kind of financial
partner at the new TIAA.org >



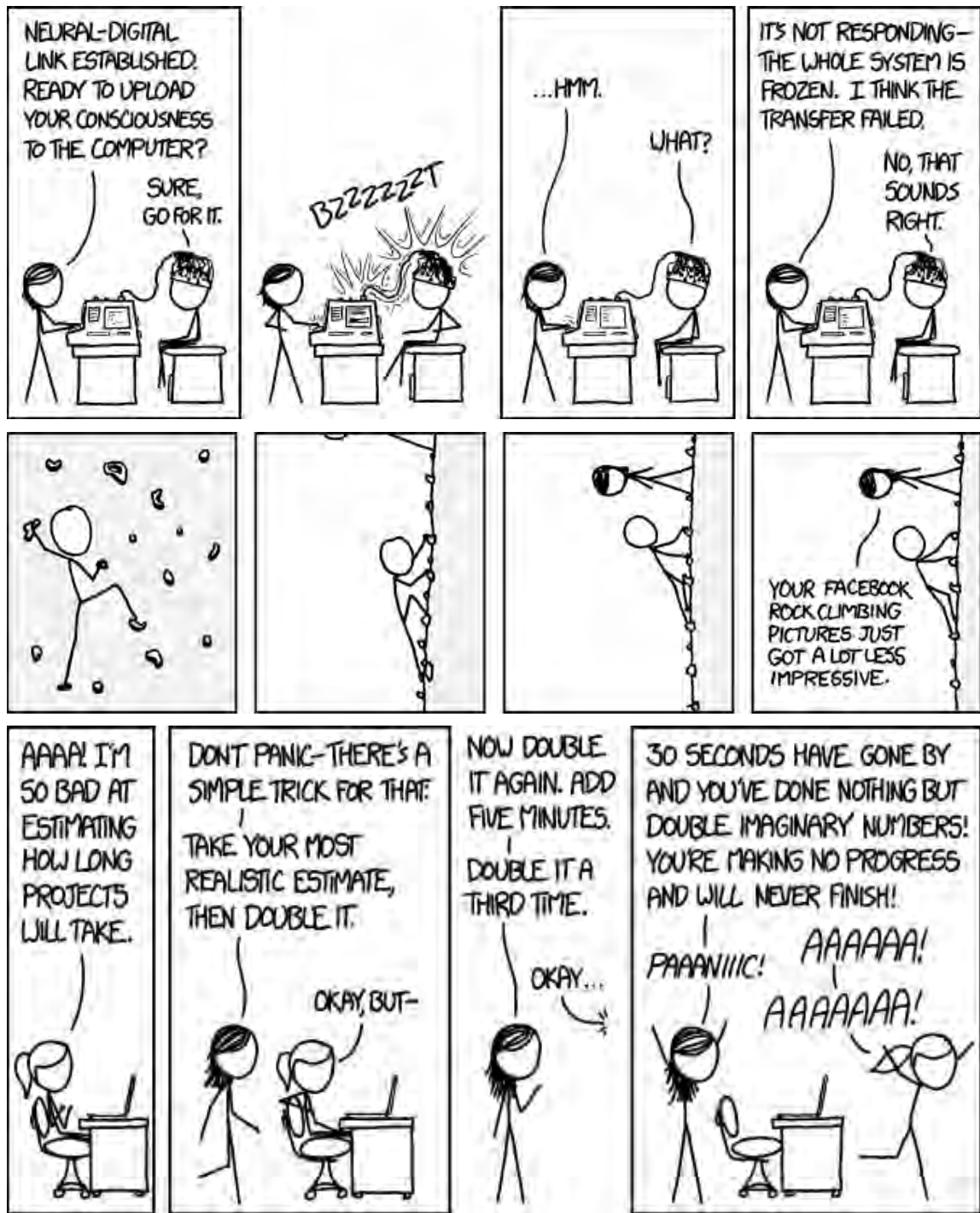
INVESTING | ADVICE | BANKING | RETIREMENT

BUILT TO PERFORM.

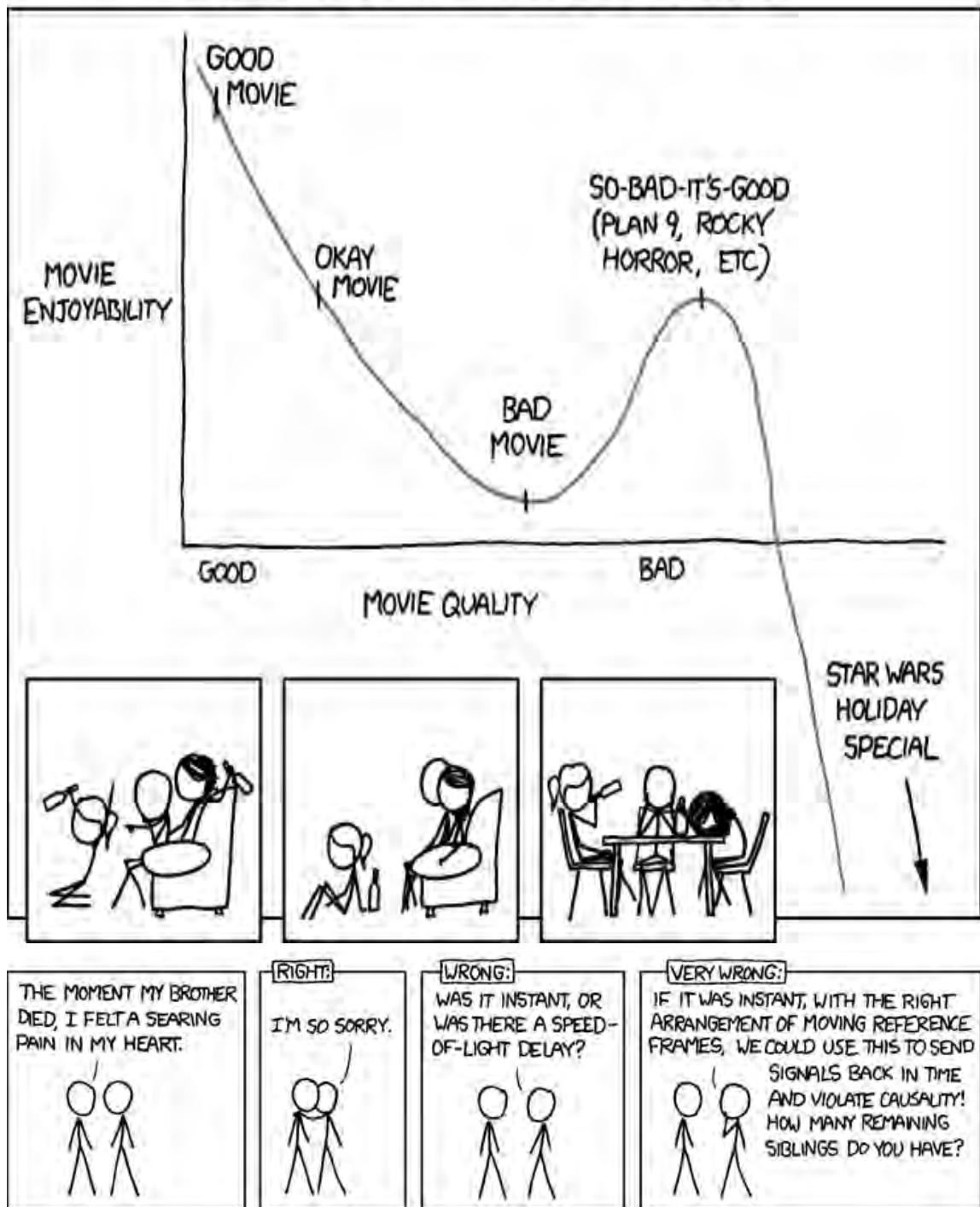
CREATED TO SERVE.

C28792

XKCD by Randall Munroe



PROTIP: EVEN AT "BAD MOVIE NIGHT," AVOID THE STAR WARS HOLIDAY SPECIAL.



CRYPTOQUOTE

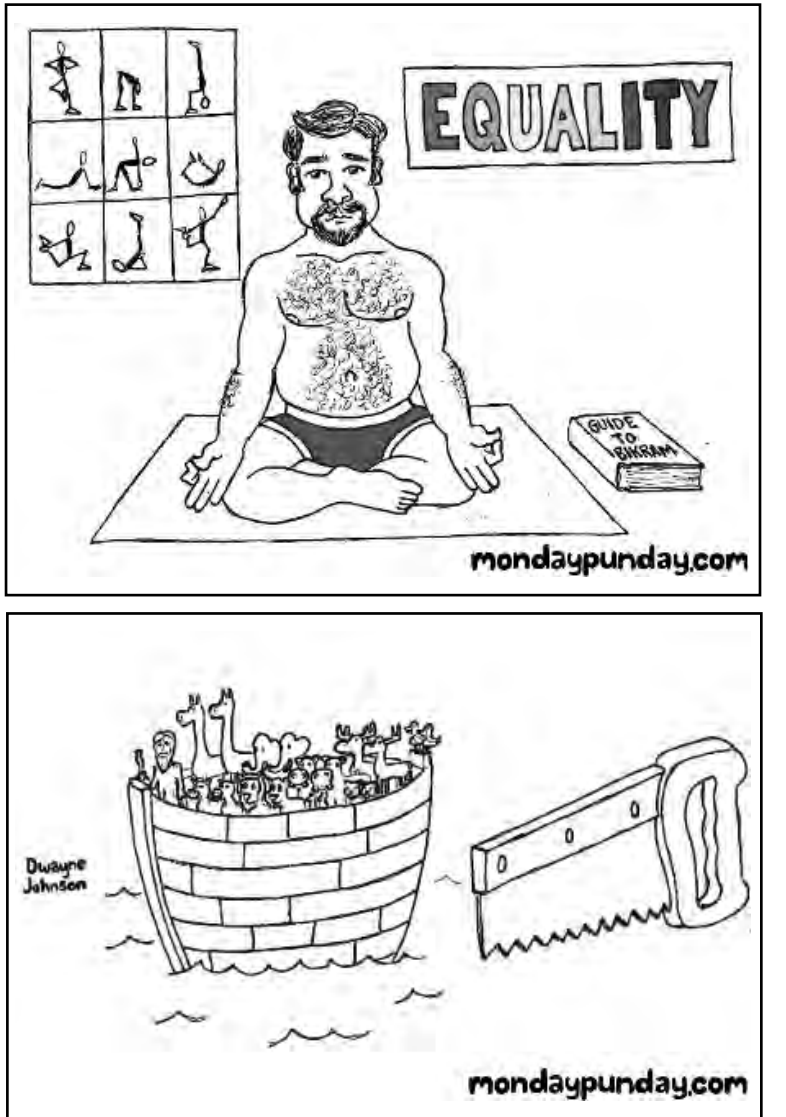
A Cryptoquote is a simple substitution code where each letter that appears may stand for a different letter. The substitutions are consistent throughout the puzzle. Punctuation is not translated. For example: AMXBMAAYQ = ENGINEERS

“ES, M'w ceyyq
 jbzz tq! Tev lqa jlb
 jqzbyj je gbdewb
 q cee a umcljbo,
 gvj myxjbqa eu
 jlqj, tev gbdewb
 q zbcgobqsbo
 je xewb dlbqn,
 xbd e ya oqjb
 ze qyx lqos!”

—Wmdsbt

Oedst

MONDAYPUNDAY by Matthew Broussard



TOP TEN LIST

Top Ten Ways To Start Your Day

10. With a nap
9. Hitting snooze
8. Don't
7. "Where am I?"
6. Trenta espresso
5. Under the bed
4. 3 rounded scoops of pre workout
3. Checking for poster teardowns
2. Stream of expletives
1. Ask him/her their name

SUDOKU

		3					2	
7			6			9	1	
				2	9			
	7		4	1		8		9
8								7
9		2		3	8		4	
			1	9				
	4	9			3			8
3						6		

3-22-16 Issue's Answers

1	6	5	8	4	9	2	7	3
7	3	9	5	2	1	4	8	6
4	8	2	3	6	7	5	9	1
5	4	8	2	3	6	9	1	7
2	9	6	7	1	5	8	3	4
3	1	7	4	9	8	6	5	2
9	2	3	1	8	4	7	6	5
8	7	1	6	5	2	3	4	9
6	5	4	9	7	3	1	2	8

Fill in the grid so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 subsquare contains exactly one occurrence of the numbers 1 through 9.

WORDFIND

by Shane O'Brien

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

Generation IV Pokémon

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

- | | | |
|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Ambipom | Dialga | Lucario |
| Arceus | Drifloon | Luxray |
| Bidoof | Garchomp | Magnezone |
| Bonsly | Giratina | Munchlax |
| Budew | Happiny | Piplup |
| Cherubi | Infernape | Porygon-Z |
| Darkrai | Leafon | Torterra |

DILBERT

by Scott Adams

Panel 1: Boss: STOP CHECKING THE TIME WHEN I TALK TO YOU!
Dilbert: UH-OH.

Panel 2: Dilbert: I WASN'T CHECKING THE TIME. I WAS CHECKING MY PULSE TO SEE IF I'M DYING FROM BOREDOM.
Boss: I HOPE THIS IS A COINCIDENCE.

Panel 3: Dilbert: I'M NOT AN ENGINEER, SO I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE DOING THE RIGHT THINGS OR NOT.
Boss: AND I CAN'T WATCH YOU WORK, SO I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE PUTTING IN ANY EFFORT.

Panel 4: Dilbert: MY TESTS SHOW WE UNDERPERFORM OUR COMPETITION ON NINE OUT OF ELEVEN DIMENSIONS.
Boss: THAT MEANS YOU'RE TOTALLY WORTHLESS. I WAS GOING TO SAY INTUITIVE.

Panel 5: Dilbert: THE GOVERNMENT WANTS US TO MAKE SOFTWARE THAT CAN UNLOCK THE ENCRYPTED DATA OF OUR USERS.
Boss: GIVE THE TWO GOOD ONES TO MARKETING. WE CAN'T BE MORE HONEST THAN THAT.

Panel 6: Dilbert: THE GOVERNMENT WANTS US TO MAKE SOFTWARE THAT CAN UNLOCK THE ENCRYPTED DATA OF OUR USERS.
Boss: EITHER WE CHOOSE PRIVACY OR NATIONAL SECURITY. SHOULD WE BETRAY OUR CUSTOMERS OR SHOULD WE ENABLE TERRORISTS?

Panel 7: Dilbert: THAT SOUNDS EVIL.
Boss: I'M ALMOST CERTAIN WE CAN. NO, WE REALLY CAN'T.

Panel 8: Dilbert: THE GOVERNMENT WANTS US TO MAKE SOFTWARE TO CRACK OUR OWN ENCRYPTION.
Boss: FIGURE OUT WHICH ONE IS MORE PROFITABLE AND GET BACK TO ME. ON IT.

Panel 9: Dilbert: THE GOVERNMENT ASKED ME FOR AN UPDATE ON YOUR PROJECT.
Boss: IT'S FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY. CAN I TEST IT ON YOUR PHONE?

Panel 10: Dilbert: I'LL TALK INTO YOUR PHONE. THEY LISTEN TO YOU ALL DAY LONG.
Boss: YOU'D HAVE TO KILL ME FIRST. THAT WOULD BE TWO GOOD THINGS FOR THE COUNTRY. THIS IS UNSETTLING. EVERYTHING IS ON SCHEDULE.

UPAC CINEMA

The Hateful Eight

Saturday • April 22, 2015
7 pm, 10:30 pm • DCC 308 • \$2.50

Riddick

Saturday • April 23, 2015
7 pm, 9:30 pm, 12am • DCC 308 • FREE

Do you like drawing comics?
 Draw comics for *the Poly!*
 Email us at comics@poly.rpi.edu

Flight: Trip filled with fun

From **Page 12**

and looking down at the Earth. It's something humans were never meant to do, but it's freaking awesome! Also, appreciate the sacrifice I had to make to get you, the readers, those pictures. I got a little airsick while looking through the lens, but I'm just thankful I didn't have to use that little blue bag in the seatback pocket.

Looking at RPI from above was just amazing. It's funny now to walk around and look at the towering buildings and tiring hills and think about how flat and small everything was from above. No matter how many times I fly, I always have those thoughts. Life is all about perspective, I guess.

But, enough philosophy, back to the story. After two laps around RPI, we set course south toward Albany. I don't know if you've ever driven through Albany, but let me tell you, those highway overpasses are kooky. Who was in charge of scribbling out that road system? Because I'd like to shake that person's hand. It would be a city builder's dream come true to check out that highway system from above. Maybe not a city builder, but someone who likes watching complex roadways work their magic (me). I wish I had gotten a better picture of it, but a combination of—ahem—my sickness and the fact that someone had an “emergency” that required a medical evacuation to fly into Albany Medical Center cut our time there short.

Alessandro got back on the radio and spoke some more code to the tower. Up ahead and travelling much, much faster than us was a private jet. Air traffic control told us to “just slip in behind him,” or something to that effect, so we did as we were told. But the scenario that played out was more like “we'll watch him land from really far away and slowly make our way back, in due time of course.” Cessna 172's aren't known for being particularly speedy.

After a smooth landing—better than some commercial ones I've had—we were safely on the ground again. We taxied our way back to Million Air, and our adventure was coming to a close. We were asked to take a picture with the plane for the club and happily obliged. Alessandro told us explicitly not to touch the propeller as we lined up for the photo. So Steph touched it, we took the picture, and we were on our way.

We again had the luxury of traveling back to Rensselaer with our chauffeur, Justin. Nothing like door to door service to make you feel like a ... Million Air. Ha! I'm hilarious. But seriously, it was a great experience and a ton of fun. I hope the Flying Club continues the tradition, because it is definitely something everyone should have the opportunity to do. ♦

Hill: Various clubs make appearance

From **Page 12**

we all know the stress that brings.” Some of the events that helped set the mood include the performance by the jazz band, who had a new vocalist addition this semester!

As aforementioned, there were many clubs who held activities. Some of the clubs included the Outing Club, the Juggling Club, Engineers without Borders, and the American Society of Civil Engineers. The Outing Club had a very aspiring activity—a bouldering competition! They had three differing competition levels based on experience. The Juggling Club not only performed their skills, but also taught other people how to juggle! Engineers without Borders and the American Society of Civil Engineers co-hosted an event, which was supposed to mimic a rainwater catchment system and rewarded whomever “made it rain” best.

One thing that entertained me a lot was the Kapow Maze. It was an inflatable maze that had an inflatable rod revolving on top of it. People had to make it through the maze faster than the person on the end, while also avoiding the rod. It was very entertaining to see how people were getting through the maze—one person jumped over the wall, but was hit by the rod!

All in all, GM Day was a success because it helped students relax, and allowed clubs to spread more awareness about what they do and who they are. ♦



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

RPI FLYING CLUB PRESIDENT ALESSANDRO GALLI FLEW the *Poly* reviewers in a Cessna 172 over RPI's campus. The airplane was a four-seater and provided plenty of legroom.

EVENT REVIEW

CCMC hosts fourth semesterly dumpling party

Elisabeth Ryan
Senior Reviewer

ON THE AFTERNOON OF FRIDAY, April 15, the Conversation Corner and Mandarin Club hosted a dumpling party in the Rensselaer Society of Engineers' kitchen and dining room. The dumpling party has been hosted in the past at Professor Yue Jianling's home and is going into its fourth anniversary as a semesterly event. Finding it too small of a space to host such an event, the club moved their location last semester when one of Yue's students, an RSE brother, offered the use of the house's facilities. After

a successful dumpling party last semester, the club decided to host this semester's party, once again, at RSE's house.

Both members and guests participated in the event. Ingredients were mixed in a large bowl, and people took turns making dumplings with the dough wrappers. While some were fried and others boiled, hundreds of dumplings were made and consumed that day. People from different parts of China would show the vast difference in dumpling-making techniques and how it differed depending upon the individual's place of birth. It was not only a fun and hands-on event,

but an educational one as well; both English and Chinese were spoken readily throughout the afternoon.

CCMC is a club dedicated to providing a platform for Chinese-speaking students and English-speaking students to come together and learn each other's languages. Not only do participants learn a new language, but they also immerse themselves in the other's culture. The club is frequented by students of Professor Yue as well as many Chinese students interested in sharing their culture.

After meeting with Club President Jiaying Yu '17, Club Vice President Melissa Henry '19, Club Secretary

Tom Stefancic '19, and members Darwin Ding '17 and Rebecca Martin '17 for a brief interview, they explained that, “every semester, our professor goes out to a lot of foreign students who come to the US ... and [brings] them to our meetings so she can get them to learn English in a friendlier setting.” The club has integrated both international and American students in events such as the Chinese New Year gala performance. The club hosts a myriad of events like this and the dumpling party, such as paper lantern-making and calligraphy lessons.

The mission of CCMC is to bridge the gap between students

of different nationalities and backgrounds. “Language shouldn't be a barrier between people,” said Yu. “We are really welcoming to all people of all levels ... College is about expanding horizons. Show up to our Conversation Corner.”

At first, the Conversation Corner and the Mandarin Club were two separate organizations. After recently obtaining Rensselaer Union recognition, the two became one. The current number of members ranges between 20 and 30 people. For those interested in expanding their linguistic horizons, meetings are held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in Sage 4510 from 6–8 pm. ♦

Summer: Australian band releases sweet tunes



Courtesy of Cybele Malinowski

THE PREATURES STORMED the music scene with their debut album, *Blue Planet Eyes*. The Australian band appeals to an easy-listening, indie-feel for great summer listening.

From **Page 12**

makes the song as moving as it is relatable. It's not necessarily a new theme, but the song is an inspired take on it, and deserves commendation for that. The lyrics are smart, and the song is catchy and new.

Another song worth mentioning is "Somebody's Talking." This song is admittedly a little less thought out than "Is This How You Feel," as the band directly plays on coastal imagery to appeal to their listening demographic. In that sense, the song feels slightly

like a cop-out; using the phrase "coast to coast" feels remarkably cheesy in comparison to the smart lyrics of "Is This How You Feel." That being said, the musical aspect of the song is incredibly redeeming. It's easy-listening, but still manages to be compelling in

its originality. This particular song carries more of a melody than many of the other tracks, and it is a spirited and fun song to listen to.

Blue Planet Eyes is, first and foremost, great for summer listening. By playing on their Australian appeal, The Preatures

have put together an album that's novel and exciting to listen to. It's hip, it's new, and it's an exceptionally well done sound. ♦

GAME REVIEW

New PC game proves to be fulfilling

Geoff Rosenthal
Senior Reviewer

COMING INTO COLLEGE, I HAVEN'T HAD AS MUCH time for videogames as I once did. Nowadays, I'm borrowing a roommate's PS4 to play a new game they bought or some mobile game that I can play for downtime between—and sometimes during—classes. However, that's not to say I don't miss the type of games I used to play. My DS Lite with *Harvest Moon DS* sits sadly on my desk, waiting for me to pick it up. But, as a busy college student, I don't feel as though I can invest the time in these types of games that I could when I was younger. So, as one might have already guessed, I was hit with a good wave of nostalgia when I got my hands on *Stardew Valley*.

So, what is *Stardew Valley*? It's a PC game in a similar vein to *Harvest Moon*, where your character inherits a ramshackle farm, and you must make the farm successful while also integrating yourself into the local community. This second bit might be the most fulfilling part of the game—becoming friends with villagers, fixing up the local community center (or turning it into a Jojo Mart warehouse), and making a family are just a few of the non-farming activities one can partake in. The game works on a time-based system, with each day taking roughly 10 real time minutes and with 28 days in each of the four seasons. These days aren't all wasted work days; there are birthdays and events that take place on certain

days, and villagers have weekly schedules that can also vary with the weather.

So, as far as I've written, I've described *Stardew Valley* as a *Harvest Moon* clone, which, honestly, it kind of is. However, that's not necessarily a bad thing. The game's creator understood the strong and weak points of those games and used those to his advantage. The fishing system is now a much less tedious, skill-based mini game. The time curve in many aspects is much kinder in *Stardew Valley*, allowing you to automate your farm through sprinklers and feeders much faster than any *Harvest Moon* game I've played. Additionally, the ability to craft and place items wherever you'd like allows for more personalized farms that can better cater to the player's style. For example, I focused on making artisanal goods like wine and cheese for income while my friend would invest in maximizing their farming, which the new level/perk system helps with in promoting diversity in play.

I mentioned the game's creator before, but I should actually describe him as the sole creator. One man, Eric Barone, created the game that captured the best aspects of *Harvest Moon* that the newer titles haven't captured well—for example, having clear regimented goals. In *Stardew Valley*, there is a clear list of items to acquire to improve your farm and fix the community center, with quests to unlock areas around the town, which stands in contrast to the obfuscated method of blind play—provided you don't use a walkthrough—present in *Harvest Moon*. And as I

mentioned before, *Stardew Valley* is much kinder to your patience and time. While it certainly makes the game easier that your buildings can't be destroyed and your animals can't be killed, I think that's a fair alternative to *Harvest Moon*, where it could take a whole in-game year to replace your barn and get your friendship levels with your animals to the same level. I don't want to seem like a lazy so-and-so, but wasting about 18 hours to get to the same point I was at before just doesn't appeal to me.

But I think the best part of *Stardew Valley* is being able to talk about my farm and strategies with friends who also own it. This promotes a real life social aspect to the game that I was never able to get out of *Harvest Moon* growing up—which, to be fair, was not the fault of the game. But with a cooperative addition to *Stardew Valley* coming soon, this will create a larger gap in the differences between the two games. For only \$15, I got an incredibly entertaining game that not only sated my nostalgia, but also my gaming bug. Even my friends that had not played *Harvest Moon* before love the game, telling me that *Stardew Valley* stands on its own as a good experience and not just an attempt at being a hollow copy of a childhood classic. With tuned and tight gameplay, which can be played in a realistic and rewarding time frame, *Stardew Valley* is a must-buy for those looking for a relaxing, casual experience—but be prepared for the struggle of saying, "maybe I'll just go for one more day." ♦

EARTH WEEK

Week kicks off with many events

Amelia Grimm Blauw
A Special to The Poly

THIS FRIDAY, APRIL 22, IS EARTH DAY. The holiday is a great reminder that we should work to take care of this planet that we share. But why stop at just a day? This year, many Eco-clubs on campus have teamed up with faculty and other students to bring the first, and hopefully annual, Earth Week to RPI. For the entire week, students are encouraged to attend all of the exciting workshops relating to the environment. A full list of events can be found in our schedule on the Earth Week 2016 Facebook page. These include talks by guest lecturers, movie screenings, games, and panels on a variety of topics.

At the Earth Week Kick-off event on Saturday, April 16th, students and community members enjoyed live music performances, recycled arts and crafts projects, and information about the wildlife in our area. A Recycled Drum Circle capped off the day, playing a Guaguancó-inspired piece.

Throughout the rest of the week, there are a diverse range of programs planned. Anyone can attend any session. There are opportunities to learn about local issues, such as the water contamination in Hoosick Falls. There is also the chance to learn how to can vegetables and make a terrarium from scratch with Vasudha.

This first-ever Earth Week is an exciting time for environmentalism and sustainability on campus. By participating in these simple activities, you can learn skills you can implement in your life to care for our planet. ♦



Courtesy of Chucklefish Games

STARDEW VALLEY PROVIDES an involved farming game with clean gameplay, a spin on a childhood classic. The game is a must-buy.

Features

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

CAMPUS EVENT

Flying above the RPI campus, Albany

RPI Flying Club takes lucky students on an aerial tour of the school, leaves reviewer awed

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reviewer

DESPITE WHAT I'M STUDYING IN SCHOOL, I HAVE a secret passion for flying. Something about being above the world, looking down at what seems so significant on the ground yet so trivial from above, is both exhilarating and refreshing. Given the opportunity to get up in the air again, I was going to take it. This past Grand Marshal Week, RPI's Flying Club offered flyovers of the campus, and Stephanie and I, along with my roommate Tucker, jumped on the opportunity. Now begins a play-by-play of our adventure.

Our chauffeur, Justin, awaited us by the Rensselaer Union in a luxurious BMW to transport us to the airfield. Nothing says classy like showing up to a private hangar in a car you're not driving, that's what I say.

So we arrived at the airport terminal, aptly called Million Air (it's a pun) and apparently the flight came with a TSA Pre-Check because I got to keep my shoes on the whole time, which was great. Our pilot was none other than President of the RPI Flying Club Alessandro Galli '16. He went over our flight plans, safety stuff, and answered Steph's numerous questions. I was a bit disappointed he didn't show us how to clip in our seatbelts, to be honest, as I'd forgotten and it is clearly the most important part of any flight.

While Alessandro did a walkaround of the aircraft, we got to check out the extravagance that is Million Air. That place was fancy. There was a popcorn machine! They had orchids on the tables! I mean, they were fake, but you don't see fake orchids at the Albany Bus Terminal do you?



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

THE FLYOVER CONSISTED of a flyover of RPI's campus as well as downtown Albany. The flight gave a view of the whole campus.

With that settled, it was time to get in the air. We determined that Tucker, being the only aeronautical engineering major of the group, should have the honor of sitting up front. Headsets on, some secret code between pilot and tower, and we were off. Well ... taxiing down the runway, at least.

I'm not gonna lie, I had a huge grin the whole time we were making our way to the runway. It's exciting! And for me, takeoff never gets old. Now in the proper position, Alessandro said some more random words and letters into the headset, and then we were off.

It was a bit comical how little runway it took us to get off the ground. We made it maybe

a fifth of what was available before it was disappearing beneath us. Not long after we had climbed to around 1,500 feet, and we were cruising back toward Rensselaer.

At this point, I have to let the pictures do the talking. It's just too difficult to encompass the wonder of being a quarter mile in the air

See FLIGHT, **Page 10**

EVENT REVIEW

GM Week takes over campus

Freshman Hill becomes home to Wednesday events

Sarah Muguria
Staff Reviewer

GRAND MARSHAL WEEK, AS I'M SURE you all know, is election week. The week peaks on Wednesday, as the day is filled

with many events and ends with a debate featuring all the candidates for GM and President of the Union. My residence on freshman hill led to me visiting more of the events near the field by Commons Dining Hall.

It was a nice and sunny day out, and people were really enjoying it. Jessica Mac '19 said, "It's a fun environment for students to take a break in, especially because the semester is coming to an end, and

See HILL, **Page 10**



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

ONE OF RPI'S JAZZ BANDS PERFORMS on Freshman Hill during the GM Day celebrations on April 13, 2016.

ALBUM REVIEW

Preatures present nice summer jams

Nathan Dorer
Senior Reviewer

SYDNEY-BASED AND INDIE-INFLUENCED THE PREATURES HAVE LIVED out the majority of their career in relative obscurity. Following the release of two quietly masterful extended plays, the band managed to catch moderate commercial success with the release of their 2014 album *Blue Planet Eyes*. The album's single "Is This How You Feel?" was ultimately voted ninth on the Triple J Hottest 100, an Australian quasi-equivalent of the Billboard Top 100. As a whole, the album peaked at number four on the charts of the Australian Recording Industry Association and achieved relatively widespread critical success in the Australian markets.

Blue Planet Eyes is the band's interpretation of the indie-synthpop sound that became popular when listening to grunge became popular again. Lead singer Isabella Manfredi's voice is a quiet and ethereal whisper in response to the band's heavy bass riffs and beautiful guitar solos. There's something palpable and inherently adolescent about the sound of the album; it's youthful and inspired, and it somehow manages to play directly on the idea of going on a road trip during the summer. The band is something akin to The Temper Trap, but with a distinguished hip-ness that can only be attained by a band that didn't immediately fall onto a record contract.

The aforementioned single "Is This How You Feel?" was arguably the band's greatest success. The Preatures won a \$50,000 prize in the Vanda and Young Songwriting Competition for the lyrics of the song, and also managed to gain some international attention after the song was featured in an episode of WBEZ's *This American Life* on National Public Radio. The song catches listeners with the a borderline sensual baseline, and follows up with a powerful percussion accompaniment. Manfredi's voice contributes lyrics about searching for solidarity in the midst of young romance, and she quietly refrains to herself in a way that

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