

Editorial

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Relay better organization

On Friday, April 24, RPI's Relay for Life was held in the Armory. Relay for Life, run by the American Cancer Society, is an annual event that raises money towards the fight against cancer by having participants walk, either individually or in teams, for twelve to 24 hours.

Sadly, this year's Relay was disappointing. From an incredibly low turn-out to general disorganization throughout the event, the *Polytechnic* staff was dissatisfied with what could have been a spectacular event. Many of the events of the night, especially those conducted by Relay For Life, seemed to be more focused on the theme of the event, Disney, rather than the purpose which Relay for Life stands for. For example, the trivia game included questions about Disney characters and very few questions about cancer or preventative measures which is information that could benefit students.

No reporters or media organizations from *The Polytechnic* or RPI TV were permitted to enter without paying the entry fee, and therefore, no article could be written about the event. This is contrary to previous Relays for Life held at RPI, which *The Polytechnic* has covered over the years and even included a spread.

The 2017 and 2018 Class Councils also donated \$2,000 towards providing food for attendees to the event. However, volunteers who came to the event for the sole purpose of distributing the food were expected to pay the \$20 entry fee and register as an attendee. The issue was solved with the workaround of entering through a back door, but multiple volunteers had already paid the entry fee.

Finally, we are concerned with the American Cancer Society's discretion with the division of raised funds. Because a significant amount of money is spent on advertising, merchandise, and other costs unrelated to research, survivor assistance, etc., not as much money actually goes to the fight against cancer than could be spent. According to *Combined Financial Statements* released by said organization in recent years, the American Cancer Society has only spent approximately 60 percent of the money raised towards actual cancer research, prevention, detection, treatment, and patient support. Other related charities spend upwards of at least 80 percent of their revenue on the above services. Perhaps other, more direct donation options would be more beneficial to the ultimate cause: eliminating cancer.

We look forward to seeing next year's event, in hopes that organization and procedures will be improved.

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS

You are an undergrad once Make memories that last a lifetime now

MY SUNDAYS ARE ALWAYS SHOT. BUT I guess that's because I planned it out that way. Amongst fraternity business in the morning, *Poly* business meeting in the afternoon, and more fraternal obligations during the evening, I don't have any me time. But that can wait for after college.

No one really talks about what happens after you graduate. How most, if they have a job, go through the motions every day. Wake up at 7 am, go to work at 8 or 9 am, then leave at 5 pm. After work, when they get home, they quickly have dinner and then just want to relax until they go to bed at 10 pm. Work is fatiguing. College is the only time that this rigidity and enervation does not exist. I'm not exhausted by the time it hits 5 pm. From when I wake up at 10 am until at least 2 am every day, I'm up at classes, in meetings, doing homework, eating with friends, and exercising. And like an old man, I may complain that my back hurts, but getting out there, making sure that all my responsibilities are said and done, is my first priority.



Chris Leong
Contributing Editor

You only college once. Sounds silly, but think about it for a second. Save those that are going to graduate school (godspeed to y'all), none of you are going to be experiencing college life again. It'll be hard to involve yourself in as many organizations. It'll be hard to establish those wide social connections that we have at school. We have over 110 student clubs and groups and almost 40 greek chapters. Once we graduate, whether we all go, this centralized type of organization disappears. There won't be some kind of student union that consolidates these distinct clubs and organizations; we will have to search for that ourselves and let me tell you straight up, it's difficult and it sucks. Even if we do find those groups that we seek outside college, we may not find that same fulfillment that we do at RPI.

So I admonish you, to take advantage of your time here. Don't sit alone in your room playing video games. At least leave your door open or get outside and find others that also love the game

and play with them. Don't say "I have too much work;" that's a load of platypus pickles. When I have an assignment or project I always say that, but in actuality, I procrastinate. Bad. And I know that I'm not alone. But if I have an obligation night that cuts into that working time, I become efficient. I stop browsing Facebook and Reddit because I have a sense of urgency. "Chris, stop procrastinating, or you won't sleep tonight." That's what gets me. Lastly, don't be like high school me and say I'm too tired; I don't remember all my dreams anyways. But I do remember that one time I got out of my room and played some pick up basketball. I'll always cherish that clutch fade-away-three I made against some guy that was four inches taller than me.

Make your college days memorable and interesting. No one's ever going to look back and brag about how much sleep they got or how many video games they beat. People will, however, talk about how they went to the Passion Pit and Matt and Kim concert, or stayed up late at Relay for Life. Remember, you only college once.

the polytechnic

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Career-oriented academics Editor desires fewer mandatory classes

I AM OF THE OPINION DON'T DO SOMETHING UNLESS IT IS worth it to you. What irks me is when I am forced to do something I see as having no real value to me. Case and point, high school. I was forced to take two years of Spanish to graduate and I can only remember the most basic of sayings. All those hours of class time could have been better spent elsewhere where it would actually help me. I have no plans on ever living or even visiting a Spanish speaking country, so I resent the fact that I had to waste time and effort to learn it.

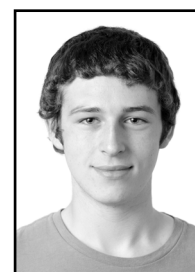
Another example is English classes. The last time I remember having a grammar lesson was in sophomore year. Freshman year was the last time it was a major part of the course. During my sophomore, junior, and senior years, I was forced to read books I did not want to read, some of which were absolutely atrocious. I love to read; I used to read about an hour and a half every day, but they were books I wanted to read. I have seen very little profit from taking junior and senior English, but what profit I did see is vastly outweighed by the time that was wasted sitting in class.

Coming to college, I had hoped to get away from meaningless classes. While certainly true, there are still a couple courses I am irked with. Mainly, those courses are the humanities section of the

humanities and social sciences required courses. I based my picks for classes on those solely which are the easiest. Unfortunately, all the seats were taken five days prior to my registration. I was lucky and could switch around a social sciences course to fill the slot, but I am sorry for the poor chap who is being forced to take and pay for a course that will have no meaningful impact on his life or career.

Some of you may say it is to make us more well-rounded individuals, and others might say it gives us a chance to explore what we may like or dislike. Well, I knew I wanted to be in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics-related field my freshman year. I wish I could have taken more math classes and a broader range of sciences, but no, I was forced to take classes that haven't helped me as much as the others would have. As to the well-rounded statement, I highly doubt my boss is going to ask me to draw a self-portrait. I understand there are more facets to the well-rounded statement and while I see the point of it, I don't agree with the point.

Maybe I am still too young and naïve to realize how all of this will affect me in the long run, but at least it will be interesting to look back and see my thoughts at the time.



Tyler Carney
Associate Composing Editor

**The Poly reminds you to not tear down posters
(or their tape).**

TOP HAT

GM encourages committee participation

Newly elected GM looks forward to a term of student awareness

Marcus Flowers
Grand Marshal

ON TUESDAY, APRIL 28, THE 46TH STUDENT Senate held its first meeting, with the focus of addressing the petitions that we've received, and continuing the open call for Senate leadership.

First, we addressed the petition "Allow UPAC Cinema to show *American Sniper*." This petition came at a time where there was a misunderstanding in how this was being handled. UPAC Cinema withdrew the film of their own volition, so that they may coordinate with the Muslim Student Association to host an informed discussion on the subject of the film prior to its showing. As this has already passed, the Student Senate recognized the petition, and expressed its support of cultural sensitivity.

Second, we addressed the petition "Give Us Our Jar Lids," which refers to students desiring lids for their Grand Marshal Week 2015 mugs. We responded to this request by charging the GM Week Committee with looking into possible options.

Our last petition for the day was "Bring fruits, vegetables, and other healthy food options to Father's," and was charged to both the Hospitality Services Advisory Committee as well as the *Union Executive Board Business Operations Committee*.

After answering to student issues through the petitions system, the Senate's focus is on finding our new leaders, so that we can resume our full operating capacity. The following positions are available, with a little bit of an explanation on each:

Treasurer: Manages the budget of the Student Senate, and further the committees within the Senate.

Secretary: Maintains minutes from meetings and makes them available to the public.

Vice-Chairman: The vice-chairman of the Student Senate works with the Grand Marshal to organize the Student Senate, and oversees the work of all the Senators, as well as regular Senate operations such as document organization.

Academic Affairs Committee Chairman: As chairman of this committee, one works to develop solutions to student issues in regards

to their academic and career goals. The chairman of this committee is also responsible for maintaining the student connection to the Faculty Senate and its committees.

Community Outreach Committee Chairman: This committee is being reinstated to improve the student connection with Troy by working with the Troy Business Improvement District, as well as coordinating with other student bodies at nearby colleges.

Facilities and Services Committee Chairman: This committee works to develop solutions to student issues regarding the facilities and services of the Institute through projects and discussions with the Institute administration.

Hospitality Services Advisory Committee Chairman: This subcommittee of the Facilities and Services Committee is responsible for discussions and initiatives regarding student dining services at RPI.

Student Government Communications Committee Chairman: The chairman of this committee is responsible for coordinating the Senate's strategies in communicating

with the student body, including social media and outreach events.

Student Life Committee Chairman: The chairman of this committee coordinates initiatives with the intent of advocating for student rights and quality of life issues. This includes a wide range of project areas, from student handbook policy to residence hall improvement recommendations.

Web Technologies Group Chairman: This committee works to support the Senate and the student body by offering technology solutions to fit the student needs. This can range from website development for a Senate project, to ongoing projects such as the RPI Shuttle Tracker.

My final note to students is that if you have any interest in making changes to your campus, you do not have to be elected to be a part of a committee. These committees are largely comprised of students who find these projects interesting, and hope to make a difference on our campus.

If you have any comments, questions, concerns, or are interested in learning more about these positions/committees, you can reach me at gm@union.rpi.edu.

DERBY

Dvorak undertakes challenges his office will face

Applications for '15-'16 Executive Board positions available online

Nicholas Dvorak
President of the Union

HELLO RPI, I HOPE YOU'RE DOING WELL.

With President of the Union Week 2015 over and the nightmares of jar lids slipping into memory, I would like to take a moment to thank the students of Rensselaer for selecting me as their next President of the Union. It was a wild ride, but it only stands as a warmup set for the work-out that will be this year in office. Regardless of who you voted for, I am here to represent all students, and I give you my solemn oath that I will work day in and day out to ensure I do so the best I can. I hold a great pride in our student government, and truly believe that we can make great strides over the next year and beyond.

If you're a regular *Poly* reader, I'm sure you know what I'm going to talk about next, but if not, you're in for a

treat because Executive Board applications are live! Do you want to get more involved, gain practical experience, and give back to your fellow students in a meaningful way? If you answered yes to any of those questions, then the E-Board may be the right fit for you. Executive Board members are tasked with actively managing the \$8.4 million operating budget of the Rensselaer Union in addition to overseeing club operations, addressing a wide variety of issues, and working with a dedicated team to improve the student experience. The skills honed through an E-Board position are invaluable, and allow you to get both hands on, practical experience and work to give back to the community as a whole.

The application is open to all students regardless of class year, and I sincerely encourage anyone interested to apply. Applications are due by Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 11:59 pm. This year, in addition to the regular

PDF applications, I have also implemented a Google Form that can be used! Physical copies of the application can be found in the yellow folders on the Union bulletin boards. The PDF can be found under <https://stugov.union.rpi.edu/eboard/>, and the Google Form can be found at <http://goo.gl/forms/na6vho731j/>. Physical copies can be turned in to the Union Admin Office or Student Government Suite, Mailbox E1, electronic files can be emailed to pu@rpi.edu, and Google Forms can be directly submitted.

I look forward to hearing from you, and to working for the Rensselaer community over the next year. As always, if you have questions/comments/concerns, feel free to email me at any time at pu@rpi.edu. If you want to chat, stop by my office hours, swing by Pub Chats, or shine The Derby Signal on a cloudy Troy night. Have a great week!

The Polytechnic
will be holding
elections on
Saturday, May 9 at noon in
Mother's Wine Emporium.